

No 62,647

Kinnock urged to soft-pedal over defence

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

Mr Neil Kinnock is under increasing pressure from some of his most senior colleagues to tone down further his public commitments to remove American nuclear bases from Britain.

with a Labour lead of 3.5 per cent in November. They are certain that the most unpopular element of the policy is the proposal to remove all American nuclear weapons from Britain.

Michael Heseltine on deterrents and the CND Page 12

Anxiety about the electoral consequences of current policy will be voiced at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet on January 7, which was originally called by the Labour leader to rally his party and to prepare it for a general election as early as May 7.

But, they claimed, there had been gains. The public now had a far clearer understanding of and respect for the party's stance, in particular its commitment to Nato and strong conventional defence.

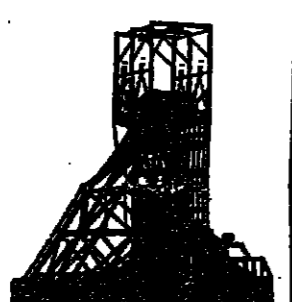
The next task was to win greater support for the new nuclear line, before switching attention to vote-winning areas such as unemployment and the health service.

They also discounted any public split over the issue. By the time the election is called and the Shadow Cabinet and national executive meet at the clause five meeting to settle the manifesto the ground will have been laid, it is argued, for the policy to be watered down in a way that makes clear that the bases would not be removed without the agreement of the Americans.

Meanwhile, a former Labour defence minister, Dr John Gilbert, said that the latest poll made distressing reading for party members and the defence policy was obviously a contributory factor.

Tomorrow

The gold seam ...



A visit to the Welsh town where the end of coal mining meant the beginning of "redundo" wealth - not to mention the bitterness that attends keeping up with the Joneses and the Thomases.

Portfolio Gold

The weekly prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - £24,000 because there were no winners the previous two weeks - was shared on Saturday by five readers. Three readers shared the £4,000 daily prize. Details page 3

TIMES SPORT

Hodge moves

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday agreed to buy Steve Hodge, the England midfielder player from Aston Villa for £650,000 after selling Graham Roberts to Rangers for £450,000. Page 28

Leeds lose 7-2

Leeds United, weakened by suspensions, were beaten 7-2 by Stoke City in the second division. Nicky Morgan scoring three goals. Page 28

TIMES BUSINESS

Reagan's plan

President Reagan is planning legislation to restore American leadership in international economics. Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative, revealed in an interview with The Times Page 17

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Business, Church, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Law Report, Leaders, Letters, Prizes, Religion, Sale Room, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Universities, Weather.

Sakharov vows to continue his fight

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the best-known Soviet dissident, is due to arrive here tomorrow by train, coding nearly seven years in internal exile.

The physicist - in a remarkable conversation with Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, who telephoned him the day after a KGB agent installed the previously-denied connection in the Sakharov flat - told Mr Gorbachov that he intended to continue speaking out on major human rights issues on his return.

"My conversation with Gorbachov was very complex and I would not try and summarize it in a few words. It was not all simple and it was not all direct," the 65-year-old scientist said yesterday during a radio interview.

South gets first snow

The first widespread snow of the winter fell across most of Britain yesterday, but forecasters were doubtful if it heralded a white Christmas.

The Meteorological Office said a belt of snow moved down from Scotland bringing southern districts their first wintry weather. Steady falls were reported in many areas, with depths of several inches on northern hills.

Biffen appeals to Churches on Aids

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter

Two Government ministers yesterday urged the churches to accept their responsibility for introducing a moral dimension into the national fight against the disease Aids.

The appeal, from Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House of Commons, and Mr Tony Newton, Minister of State for Health, came against the background of an alarming new survey showing that the pragmatic "safe sex" approach, adopted in the £20 million public education campaign, has so far had little impact.



Nuclear secrets man in Israeli court

Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear technician accused of revealing secrets about Israel's atomic arsenal, being led into a Jerusalem court yesterday.

with treason, aggravated espionage and giving top-secret information to the enemy. Mr Vanunu disappeared from his London hotel on September 30 and it was feared he may have been kidnapped.

The Israeli citizen, who converted to Christianity, disclosed to The Sunday Times that Israel had stockpiled 200 nuclear warheads at its top secret Dimona nuclear plant in the Negev Desert, where he worked for 10 years.

Futures broker vetoed

By Richard Lander

LHW Futures, a controversial financial broking firm, has been turned down for membership by the new City regulatory authority which polices the futures and commodities markets.

The decision by the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers (AFBD) will severely limit LHW's activities. When the new Financial Services Act takes full effect next year, futures broking firms will be breaking the law unless they belong to the AFBD or have authorization from the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog body.

Mr Alistair Anand, chief executive of the AFBD, said he had written to the five futures exchanges belonging to the association on Friday to tell them of the decision.

5pm deadline for Piggott bail

Lester Piggott, the former champion jockey, has until late this afternoon to find what is believed to be the £250,000 bail surety ever demanded by a British court, nearly £1 million in cash, or face re-arrest on a charge of defrauding the Inland Revenue.

Mr Piggott must hand over a banker's draft for £950,000 by 5pm to Newmarket magistrates in exchange for the deeds to his house and stables in the town, which were accepted as sureties in lieu of cash when he was arrested and charged on Friday.

Mr Norman Phillips, the Inland Revenue's prosecuting solicitor, originally asked for a cash sum of £2 million to be lodged with the court but this was reduced by the magistrates. The case has been adjourned till March 19.

Double killing warning to women in city

Women in Salisbury, Wiltshire, were advised by police to be on their guard last night after the discovery of two women murdered within hours of each other over the weekend.

Miss Ruth Perrett, aged 25, was strangled in her bedroom in a hotel and a few hours later Mrs Beryl Deacon, aged 45, a market researcher, was suffocated in a toilet cubicle. Both had been sexually assaulted.

Wright's family insist he has been telling the truth

The family of Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer who has exposed his secret operations, insisted in an interview with The Times yesterday that he has been telling the truth.

His statement came as the Government came under new pressure to mount an independent inquiry into allegations of plotting against the Wilson Labour government of the 1970s.

Mr Wright's son, Mr Bevis Wright, and two daughters, Mrs Tessa Southern and Mrs Jenny Andrews, spoke out after a report last week that their father was unreliable and lived in a fantasy world.

Yesterday Mr Bevis Wright, who runs holiday cottages in this country, contacted his two sisters - one of whom lives in Australia - before making public their support for their father's cause.

Mr Wright told said: "My father is devoted both to MI5 and to his country. The Government did not cross-examine him in the court case in New South Wales over his book, so one can only conclude that he has been truthful."

"My father believes totally in the importance of MI5 and his prime motive is to get an inquiry into the working of the security service and into its accountability."

"I think if he succeeds in that, he'll die happy. It's blatantly obvious that he's telling the truth."

Mr Wright said he was keeping in constant touch with his father, although he has not seen him for two years. He said: "He is ill but he has faith in his doctors."

There were calls for an inquiry yesterday from Lord Glenamara, the former Labour deputy leader, Mr Ted Short, who believes MJ5 was behind a plot to discredit him in the 1970s.

Lord Glenamara was at the centre of a political "scandal" when a document revealed that he had opened a Swiss bank account with a deposit of about £16,000 in December 1971. But the document, photocopies of which were circulated in Fleet Street, was a forgery.

A police investigation was conducted by Scotland Yard's Serious Crimes Squad, but those responsible were not found.

Lord Glenamara said yesterday that since Mr Wright's allegations had begun to emerge during the Australian court hearing he felt there was a strong possibility that MI5 was behind the plot.

Continued on page 16, col 4

Police break up student protest in Shanghai

Shanghai (Reuters) - Police broke up thousands of demonstrators outside the city hall here last night and arrested at least seven youths in the third day of unrest by students demanding more democracy.

Witnesses said that about 200 police squeezed into the crowd on the main waterfront boulevard, beside the city hall, and seized the youths after forming a moving cordon to push people away.

Student demonstrators beat up 31 police and broke into municipal government offices, the official New China News Agency quoted a city government spokesman as saying.

The students, supported by groups of workers, had gathered outside the city hall to express discontent with the response of Mayor Jiang Zemin to a list of demands their leaders had presented him with at a late night meeting on Friday.

They said Mr Jiang had rejected pleas for greater democracy and press freedom, although he conceded a request to label their protest action as legal and to guarantee their safety.

The students maintained the mayor had broken his word, citing what they reckoned to be 200 arrests and the beating up of police of about 12 people at the weekend.

The Shanghai student protests are the biggest in a chain of student demonstrations that has affected campuses in more than 12 cities in the last few weeks.

Earlier in the evening, 20,000 chanting students and their supporters gathered with flags in the People's Park, half an hour's walk from the city hall, and some said that they would stay all night to press their demands for democracy.

Mr Dai Junyi, a student leader from a Shanghai medical college, told a crowd of several hundred: "All of you should open your eyes. We are being suppressed."

"Maybe the police will come and break us up, but the Chinese people will not be slaves."

A Shanghai city government official said no one had been arrested and no one would be, because the marches were legal.

"But students would be breaking the law if they tried to stop traffic," he said.

Students said they were also demanding that Mr Jiang make a public apology and compensate those allegedly beaten up.

Shanghai newspapers have made no mention of the student unrest of the last few days.

A Japanese journalist based here said he saw about 200 students from Tongji and Communications universities arrested on Saturday morning and taken away in police vans as thousands of students massed near the People's Square.

The Shanghai marches, which began on Thursday, have been the most daring display of student protest in this month's wave of unrest in universities across China.

The demonstrations, from Xian in the north to Kunming in the south-west, have all turned into rallies calling for democratic reform, although many began as expressions of dissatisfaction on trivial issues such as the quality of college food.

Pay rises at lowest level for a decade

By Our City Staff

Wage rises in Britain's manufacturing industry have fallen to their lowest level for a decade, according to figures from the Confederation of British Industry today.

The CBI's data bank on pay shows an average increase of 4.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year. This compares with 5.6 per cent in the third quarter and 6.1 per cent in the first two quarters of 1986.

Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI director general, said: "While average earnings are continuing to run at rather higher levels, reflecting in part the pick-up in the economy, these much lower figures for basic pay settlements do suggest that at last we may be moving in the right direction."

Nearly one in 10 of the 80

pay settlements included in the survey were for rises of less than 2.5 per cent.

Further good news for the Government came at the weekend when oil ministers from 12 of the 13 Opec countries agreed to cut production by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels a day and to return to a fixed price system based on \$18 (£12.56) a barrel.

Despite the refusal by Iraq to abide by its quota, industry analysts expect oil prices to firm by about \$1 a barrel this week.

Iraq has dissociated itself from the agreement, rejecting a quota far lower than its actual production and below the level given to Iran.

Wage rises Page 19

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NEWS SUMMARY

Warning against a slick Budget

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House of Commons, yesterday gave a warning against a "slick and smart" Budget aimed at trying to vote his voice to those in the Government trying to damp down hopes of big tax cuts in the spring (Our Political Reporter writes).

If the Chancellor was "wise" he would ensure that his dispensations were governed by the need to meet public spending commitments and borrowing levels that did not disturb interest rates, Mr Biffen said on BBC Radio 4.

Last week, citing the recent £4.7 billion increase in planned spending as his chief constraint, Mr Nigel Lawson, told the Commons: "I doubt there will be much scope for reductions in taxation."

His remarks came after publication of Treasury figures showing lower than expected borrowing, widely interpreted as opening the door to cuts of two or three pence off the basic rate of taxation. But many MPs on both sides of the House were unconvinced believing that the Chancellor was deliberately talking down expectations.

Abortion pill tests

A drug company has asked the Department of Health for permission to test an abortion pill. Roussel, of France, is carrying out trials of a compound called RU-486 in Europe.

The pill is intended to be taken up to eight weeks into pregnancy and cause the embryo to be rejected. In tests it has been 80 per cent effective.

It is the next step from the "morning-after" pill, which contains a hormone that stops a fertilized egg from being implanted in the uterus.

Peace party

Military police were offered mince pies and mulled wine yesterday when they arrived to deal with peace protesters who entered an RAF base.

Officers were startled to find they had "gategashed" a party in full swing around a Christmas tree, complete with baubles and tinsel.

Carol-singing protesters at RAF Chilwell, near Nottingham, invited the officers to join in but they declined and 16 people were arrested. The police said charges are likely to follow.

Jamaican Concorde

British Airways has clinched a lucrative contract with Air Jamaica to lease Concorde for 12 consecutive weekend charter flights between New York and Montego Bay (Our Air Correspondent writes).

The first flight left New York on Saturday with all its 100 seats occupied. It is the first time a foreign airline has chartered Concorde and gives BA a chance to boost the aircraft as a potential charter jet in the United States.

The Air Jamaica lease has been made possible because of the cutback in Concorde flights to the United States which always takes place at this time of year. This left one Concorde standing idle at New York on Saturdays for the next three months.

Family's pressure

The brother of Boy George, the pop singer arrested on Saturday on suspicion of having cannabis, said yesterday the family had "gone through murder".

Boy George (right) was fined £250 in July for possessing heroin. He was stopped and searched early on Saturday morning while walking home from a North London party with others.

His brother Kevin O'Dowd said the pressure had "broken" the family's mother. Boy George was released on police bail until February.



Children found dead

A mother found her two youngest children dead in their beds yesterday morning.

A boy, who would have been three on Boxing Day, and his sister, aged nearly two, had been ill with what appeared to be a throat infection.

Police are treating the deaths, on the Queensway Estate in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, as "suspicious" because there is no immediate clue as to how they died. It is understood the police took bottles of medicine away for examination.

A post-mortem examination was carried out yesterday by a Home Office pathologist at Kettering General Hospital.

Razzmatazz relaunch to revitalize fortunes Alliance plans a radical 'facelift'

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter

The Liberal/SDP Alliance is secretly planning to give itself a radical New Year facelift in an attempt to recapture its original "freshness" and revitalize electoral fortunes.

This will centre on the long-awaited publication of its definitive policy document, and will involve a new logo, new colour schemes, new slogans, American-style methods of presentation, a rally which will be the biggest joint event the two parties have ever staged, and a week of intense grassroots activity at

constituency level throughout the country.

The effective relaunch has been masterminded by Mr David Abbott, chairman of the advertising agency Abbott Mead and Vickers. Mr Roland Freeman, the Alliance's new publicity consultant who organized the "Save the GILC" campaign, and Mr Paul Tyler, the former Liberal party chairman and chairman of the parliamentary lobbyists Good Relations.

The three men have been working on the campaign since October, have a budget running into tens of thousands of pounds, and have kept the

details of their plans secret from all but a handful of colleagues.

What the Alliance hopes will be a completely fresh look will be unveiled at a press conference and in a party political broadcast on January 28 which will set the tone for the following days.

The focal point of the campaign will come three days later at a Barbican rally provisionally entitled Election 87 for 2,000 Alliance faithful which will be along the lines of an American political convention. Its principal purpose will be the launch of *Partnership for Progress*, the Alliance

"bible" of policies hammered out between the two parties

Unhindered by the need to take policy decisions however, the rally, to be attended by all the party's "names", will also be a media-orientated razzmatazz designed to grab public attention and demonstrate Alliance unity and enthusiasm.

Some 10 key themes are to be extracted from *Partnership for Progress*, each of which will be the subject of a "presentation" - probably by an actor - supported by film, music and what one source described as "extracts from literature". Only after each

presentation will a politician speak. Mr Bamber Gascoigne, the television presenter and Alliance supporter, has been invited to be the anchor man between presentations.

Live bands will play during the intervals.

However the rally will mark only the beginning of the campaign. Throughout the following week it is to move out to the constituencies to which more than a million copies of "new look" eye-catching leaflets summarizing Alliance policies are to be distributed.

Michael Meadowcroft, page 12

Kinnock is urged to expel 'loony left'

By Sheila Gumm Political Staff

A senior member of the Shadow Cabinet is to urge Mr Neil Kinnock to purge the "loony left" London councillors who, he believes, are bringing the party into disrepute.

The former minister is to write "a sharp note" to the Labour leader calling on him to make plain that their actions were not "in the name of the Labour Party".

He is also enclosing material handed out to schoolchildren in Labour-controlled boroughs such as Haringey. These actively promote homosexuality, giving explicit details.

The move will embarrass the Labour leader still further when he is under pressure to divorce the party from the actions of extreme left-wing councils which he knows will lose votes.

Mr Kinnock has started the procedures which could expel Mr Tony Byrne, the new Liverpool Labour group leader, and Mr Tony Hood, the secretary, from the party.

He has attacked the "zealotry" of some left-wing council leaders but could not afford to face a further party-splitting round of expulsions. Such a purge would inevitably centre on Mr Bernie Grant, the hard left leader of Haringey council, who has pursued the controversial policies on racism, sexism and the rights of homosexuals. Mr Grant is to contest a safe Labour seat at the general election.

Many Labour peers condemned the pro-homosexual policies of left-wing local authorities when Lord Halsbury's Bill which bans local authorities from promoting homosexuality in schools was given an unopposed second reading in Lords.

Lord Longford said he regarded homosexuals as "handicapped people" who could not enjoy family life. Lord Fitt said he gave the Bill his full support as he was convinced many Aids carriers were given positive education in favour of homosexuality when at school.

The Bill stands little chance of getting on the statute book without Government backing.



Economic warfare: The Inn on the Park at Dungannon, severely damaged by a car bomb.

IRA bombing blitz

Ulster security forces on full alert

By Richard Ford

Security forces in Northern Ireland are on full alert after a Provisional IRA bombing blitz against packed pubs and hotels at the weekend.

The co-ordinated attacks in counties Tyrone and Londonderry have wrecked party plans for hundreds of people and threaten jobs in areas with historically high levels of unemployment.

Yesterday politicians condemned the hypocrisy of the Provisional movement whose political wing campaigned for more jobs and better housing while its military wing attacks economic targets.

No one was injured in Saturday night's attacks at two hotels and two bars, but thousands of pounds of damage was caused and the local economy will be seriously damaged by the bombing of licensed premises at the busiest period of their year.

The first attack occurred in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, when armed and masked terrorists planted several explosive devices at the Glenavon Hotel. The provisionals drove a hijacked car packed with explosives through locked plateglass doors while in another part of the building a number of a 12 strong terrorist team placed bombs and others robbed the safe of a large quantity of cash.

Guests were hurriedly moved out of the hotel which was seriously damaged when five devices exploded.

Eight minutes later at the Kildress Inn between Cookstown and Omagh armed men planted bombs, which caused extensive dam-

age when two exploded at 9 pm.

A few miles away at 8.30 pm the provisionals dumped a hijacked car containing explosives outside the Gaugers Inn at Ballyronan on the shores of Lough Neagh. A controlled explosion damaged parked cars and properties but other explosives were made safe by army bomb disposal experts.

The terrorists then struck at the Inn on the Park Hotel at Dungannon where they dumped a hijacked car packed with explosives outside the entry to a discotheque which was about to open.

A warning was given and the hotel cleared when the bomb exploded 12 minutes later causing extensive damage.

The explosion occurred eight years to the day after a similar attack at the popular hotel and Mr Robert

Waterson, the managing director, said yesterday: "It's a miracle no one was killed. We are a busy hotel booked out at this time day and night. If the disco had been open another 400 to 500 people would have been in there trying to get out and the loss of life could have been tremendous."

Mr Denis Haughey, of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said: "This is another example of the rank hypocrisy of the Provos. Innocent lives were put at risk. The whole economy has been further depressed."

The Provos will start to lecture us no doubt on the need for jobs."

In Cookstown and Dungannon unemployment rates are 36.8 per cent and 30.3 per cent respectively.

The attacks come after Provisional IRA attempts to dam-

age hotels at Belleek in Co Fermanagh and Moneymore in Co Londonderry last week and an explosion which wrecked an RUC station in south Belfast.

Police had warned the province that the terrorists planned a pre-Christmas bomb blitz.

Meanwhile police on both sides of the Irish border are searching for a Maze prison escapee who has failed to return to jail after being given home leave.

The Northern Ireland Office is holding an inquiry into why Patrick McIntyre, from Letterkenny, Co Donegal, was given home leave. McIntyre, aged 28, was nearing the end of a 15-year sentence for attempting to murder a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, but was facing charges which included the murder of a prison officer.

Cardinal backs 'anti-terror' pact

The leader of Ireland's Roman Catholics said yesterday that the Anglo-Irish agreement had led to a drop in the level of nationalist support for terrorists.

Cardinal Tomas O Fiach said the agreement had increased the morale of nationalists and had been "of symbolic importance" to them. He expressed disappointment at the amount of progress made, but said the agreement "certainly whittled away a certain amount of support that might have been going to people much closer to violence".

He described the deal as an

exercise in "tightrope walking" and said that he had been surprised at the scale and extent of nationalist opposition. The Roman Catholic primate refused to urge Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland to join the RUC, claiming that until an inquiry into allegations that the force operated a "shoot to kill" policy was cleared up, young nationalists would be reluctant to join the force.

Cardinal O Fiach was responding to a question during an interview on Radio Telefis Eireann, the Irish broadcasting service, on whether he agreed with the

republic's minister for foreign affairs, who has said he would be happy to see young Roman Catholics making a career in the RUC.

The cardinal said: "I don't think we have reached that precise point yet. I always have had an idea that the solution to the police question is the establishment of a number of different local police forces."

He said he had put this idea to government ministers, although it is known that the concept is opposed by senior officers in the RUC.

No advance for badly paid in 100 years

The poorest-paid workers in Britain are relatively worse off than they were 100 years ago, a Low Pay Unit report says today.

The gap between the poorest workers and the rest is now wider than it was in 1886, the year when pay figures were first collected.

Making the comparison between now and 100 years ago, it says that in 1886 the average wage for men in full-time manual jobs was £1.21 a week. Those in the bottom fifth earned 69 per cent of the average. In 1986, the bottom fifth earned only 65 per cent.

The unit says that this Christmas many workers will face wage cuts because of the Wages Act, which weakens minimum wage protection. The first effects of the Act come into operation today when some catering workers will have their pay cut by up to £12 a week. In the new year others will face cuts of up to £24 a week. It is the first time since the 1930s, that people have faced such cuts.

The report contrasts the poor pay with the rewards among the higher paid employees in white collar jobs, where 10 per cent earn more than £20,000 a year. The highest paid fifth of male full-time workers had average pay rises of 8.5 per cent last year.

Since 1979, they have had pay rises of 120 per cent. The

average male in full-time work had pay rises of 100 per cent during the same period, while the lowest-paid fifth had rises of 87 per cent.

Four times as many children are living in families dependent on supplementary benefit compared with 1965, according to a report published today by the Child Poverty Action Group to mark its twenty-first anniversary.

The report also concludes that one third of all children in Britain would be regarded as living in poverty or on its margin, if families whose incomes were within 40 per cent of supplementary benefit levels were included in its figures.

The number of children living in families on or below supplementary benefit has tripled since 1965.

Whereas most children living in poverty 20 years ago were in one-parent families, most now live in two-parent families where one is unemployed, the report states. Between 1973 and 1983, the rise in unemployment accounted for 75 per cent of the increase in child poverty.

The report says that in 1965, 456,000 children under 16 lived in families dependent on supplementary benefit. In 1984, there were 1.95 million. Poor Children: A Tale of Two Decades (By David Pincus and CPAG; £1.50).

Whitehall's secret underworld

By a Staff Reporter

The Foreign Office is to make its world-wide communications network less vulnerable to electronic counter-intelligence operations by installing a state of the art system in a Whitehall basement.

But the £34 million plan has been delayed because of the Challenger space shuttle disaster which was to have launched the British-built SkyNet 4 satellite which will transmit messages to embassies and information-gathering centres around the world.

The British systems being installed in the air conditions basement will enable secret messages to be "scrambled" far more devilishly than before.

At present, the Foreign Office communicates with its stations through telex machines in Whitehall.

The machinery, estimated to have a working life of 10 years, will increase efficiency and cut costs.

The Foreign Office yesterday described as "pure fantasy and rubbish" a report that the Prime Minister planned to introduce to the new centre the same "no union" rule operating at GCHQ in Cheltenham. He also denied that polygraph lie detectors would be introduced.

MP in attack over GCHQ staff shortage

By Tim Jones

The Government was yesterday accused by a Liberal MP of "doing more damage to the security of the secret information gathering station at GCHQ, Cheltenham, than any Russian mole".

The charge was laid by Mr Paddy Ashdown, a former diplomat, who intends to question the Government on reports that the union ban at the centre has led to staff shortages. These are said to have forced highly-skilled computer operators to be taken off intelligence work and put on payroll duties.

As part from leading Britain's intelligence chiefs, some staff at the centre also process pay for MI6 and other 'secret service' branch operatives.

One GCHQ employee said: "It is a ridiculous state of affairs brought about by the union ban. We have lost more than 100 of our best people."

The Foreign Office admits that there have been staff shortages among key personnel, but reliable sources maintain the brain drain had more to do with staff being attracted elsewhere because of poor pay levels than with ideological objections.

Mr Ashdown said: "It is ludicrous to divert precious resources from intelligence gathering in the administration of the diplomatic service."

Boost of £100m sought for RAF jets

By Harvey Elliott Air Correspondent

The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr George Younger, is being urged to find at least another £100 million from the already over-stretched defence budget to bring the radar fitted in the RAF's Tornado fighters up to standard.

The first squadron of F2 Tornados, which are designed to fight attacking bombers at long range, has entered full operational service. But defence chiefs are still unhappy about the Foxhunter radar which has cost £700 million and is six years behind schedule.

The problems are a further embarrassment for GEC whose Nimrod early warning radar failed to beat off the challenge of the Boeing AWACS aircraft.

Although the Foxhunter radar works, it is still having problems with keeping track of a large number of targets, is vulnerable to jamming and can interfere with the firing of the Tornado missiles.

It is believed that those problems can be solved. But it will be expensive and will add still further pressure on the defence budget already burdened with the cost of cancelling the Nimrod and other contracts.

So far the Foxhunter radar has cost at least £250 million more than the initial budget. But Mr Younger is almost certain to give the go-ahead for yet further finance to be made available because the long term effectiveness of the system was a key element in clinching Britain's biggest ever export order when a total of 152 military aircraft worth about £4 billion were sold to Saudi Arabia.

Included in the package were 24 Tornado F2s similar to those now being supplied to the R.A.F. Saudi Arabia made it plain that it wanted guarantees that the radar would work to the full specifications.

So important was the contract regarded by ministers that they persuaded the RAF to delay taking delivery of the Tornados they needed so that Saudi Arabia could be supplied instead. The same condition was put on the radar.

GEC is now working with experts from British Aerospace to solve the remaining problems. It has delivered the existing equipment to the Ministry of Defence and it has been passed them on to the Saudi air force.

Staff cuts hit defence projects

Defence trials at the RAF's main experimental establishment, which carried out radar tests for the GEC Nimrod project, are being delayed because of cutbacks in civilian staff.

Work being forced to the back of the queue includes the development of a new radio for Chipmunk trainer aircraft, and tests on a new camera for the Scout helicopter.

The Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, has shed 650 jobs during the past seven years, in line with Ministry of Defence requirements on cost-effectiveness.

Senior officers at the base say the result has been business-style "hot management", deciding which projects must be given priority, such as Nimrod, and which can be delayed.

The establishment deals with about 1,000 projects each year, some requiring a few weeks' work, others many months.

"We feel our output could be improved with more people," one officer said. "We are somewhat under-manned."

Officers at the base emphasize, however, that they are able to cope with their workload and the backlog of trials is not massive. Boscombe Down still has a civilian workforce of 1,150 alongside 180 service personnel.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed that staff cutbacks had led to a new management style, but said delays had affected only low priority projects. Those delays were measured in days and weeks rather than months.

Duke's party bags 250 birds

The Duke of Kent and six other guests bagged 250 of the Queen's pheasants during a five-hour shoot at Sandringham during the weekend.

The Duchess and her daughter, Lady Helen Windsor, joined them for lunch in the Queen's timber lodge, at Fitcham, Norfolk.

During The Times weekend: Australia \$2.50; Belgium Fr 30; Canada 70¢; Denmark 100; France Fr 200; Germany 100; Greece 100; Hong Kong 100; India 100; Italy 100; Japan 100; Korea 100; Luxembourg 100; Malaysia 100; Mexico 100; New Zealand 100; Norway 100; Pakistan 100; Portugal 100; Singapore 100; Spain 100; Sweden 100; Switzerland 100; Taiwan 100; Thailand 100; USA \$1.75; Yugoslavia Din 700.

FORCED DISPOSAL SALE PER CUSTOMS WAREHOUSING REGULATIONS OF 1979, NOTICE 232. NOTICE GIVEN BY HER MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS & EXCISE. A MAMMOTH INVENTORY OF OVER 3500 PERSIAN AND ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS. SALE NOW ON DAILY 9AM-9PM INCLUDING TODAY AT THE WAREHOUSE, ROXBURY PLACE FULHAM LONDON SW6. PLUS SIZES RANGING FROM 3' x 2' UP TO 18' x 12' IN SILK AND WOOL. AND A HUGE INVENTORY OF RUNNERS.

Double murder hunt as women are found a mile apart

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detectives in Wiltshire were last night investigating the murders of two women killed within hours of each other in the cathedral city of Salisbury during the weekend.

Last night detectives led by Det Chief Supt Joseph Ralls, head of Wiltshire CID, were working on the cases. The murders took place within a mile of each other.

The first murder took place early on Saturday morning in a first floor bedroom at Hert House, a half-way hostel for people recovering from mental illness.

The dead woman, Miss Ruth Perrett, aged 25, had been at party with 13 other residents, staff and former patients. There were 30 to 40 guests at the party which finished about midnight.

Miss Perrett went up to her room and was found naked and dead in bed next morning. The door to her bedroom was locked and the window was open.

Yesterday police could not

say if the door had been locked from inside because there was no sign of a key. The dead woman had been sexually assaulted and strangled.

There was no sign of burglary, but there were signs of a struggle. Detectives were yesterday interviewing people at the party or living in the hostel.

The party was attended by 12 other residents, 22 former residents and five staff were on duty. Miss Perrett went to the hostel after receiving treatment at the adjoining Old Manor Psychiatric Hospital.

She worked one day a week in an Oxfam shop and had been receiving treatment for eight months. Mr Ralls said: "Clearly there is at least one person at large in the community who is a danger to the public, women in particular, and the sooner he is caught the better."

The second body was found early yesterday by two patrolling policemen. As Salisbury police began investigating the

first murder, they were alerted by officers at Ringwood, near Southampton, Hampshire, to be on the lookout for a white Ford Escort belonging to Mrs Beryl Deacon, aged 45.

The woman, a market researcher, was due to keep an appointment in Salisbury at 10am on Saturday, but did not arrive. The two police found her car in a car park and then checked a lavatory block at Churchill gardens near by, a local council park.

Her body was found on the floor inside a locked cubicle. The body was clothed and yesterday police said she is thought to have died at about 10am on Saturday from suffocation after an attack in which her head was injured. She had been sexually assaulted.

Yesterday a spokesman for Wiltshire police denied the two murders were being linked to another killing in Hampshire when a barmaid was strangled.

Druids see in an ancient new year



More than 200 people gathered at Stonehenge in sub-zero temperatures yesterday to watch the winter solstice sunrise, while chanting Druids celebrated the beginning of their new year.

Wiltshire police stood by at the 4,500-year-old monument on Salisbury Plain but made no arrests.

English Heritage, custodians of the stones (right), had given special permission for the celebrants, some of whom are shown above, to be admitted to the inner circle. Groups of hippies chanted and held hands as the sun rose in a cloudless sky and the Secular Order of Druids observed their rituals within the henge.



(Photographs: Nick Rogers)

Hurd is pressed to review moors hunt

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

A review of the moors murders case may be undertaken by a senior officer from another force to determine whether the renewed search by Greater Manchester police for more bodies should be abandoned.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is under increasing pressure to order the independent review to be carried out immediately, now the search of snow-blanketed Saddleworth Moor has been suspended until spring.

The official who is likely to undertake the reappraisal is Mr Colin Sampson, West Yorkshire chief constable, who this year took over the sensitive investigation into the alleged Royal Ulster Constabulary "shoot to kill" policy from Mr John Stalker and then led an inquiry into allegations that Mr Stalker, Greater Manchester's deputy chief constable, brought the force into disrepute.

Senior Home Office officials have privately expressed disquiet over the renewed search for more young victims believed buried on the moor by Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, arguing that no new evidence has emerged to justify the operation.

Permission for Hindley's 24-hour release from Cookham Wood jail in Kent to revisit the area she frequented with her former lover was delayed for more than a month because of ministers'

Fears over BR budget cut threat

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

A damning indictment of British Rail has been prepared by transport watchdogs calling on the Government to defer its deadline for trimming the board's state subsidy.

The report from the Central Transport Consultative Committee claims that reduced staffing levels have prompted women to stop using a third of BR stations for fear of attacks.

It calls for ministers to reconsider the deadline for proposals to reduce BR's budget by £157 million within three years, saying that further staff cutbacks will exacerbate the problem.

The secretary for the committee, Mr Len Dumeleux, said: "There is evidence that in rural areas cutbacks on staffing have opened up the opportunity for assaults, vandalism and hooliganism."

"If trains are late or even cancelled passengers may have some time to wait at a station which is not manned and they have to be protected."

The report comes two weeks before the introduction of fare increases averaging between 5 and 6 per cent.

British Rail faces a reduction of subsidy under the proposals from £712 million to £555 million by 1989. But a spokesman for British Rail strongly refuted the allegation that women were frightened to use unmanned stations.

Christmas travel, page 5

Guidelines to alter in child cases

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

The investigation and conduct of child abuse cases is to be improved by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

He has ordered an urgent study of police methods in handling the victims of child abuse which will lead to a circular next year, laying down new guidelines to chief police officers.

Mr Hurd said it would be similar to the two circulars issued on rape, covering the investigation of offences and protection of victims.

This is part of a package of measures the Home Secretary has announced for better protection for children which, he said, must be a top government priority.

These include checks on newly-recruited staff and volunteers in contact with children in education, social and probation services.

Mr Hurd promised that where a compelling case can be made out for other jobs involving access to children to be checked, he would consider it sympathetically.

He also said, in a Commons written reply: "Those sentenced to life imprisonment for the sexual or sadistic murder of children must normally expect to remain in custody for at least 20 years."

"Those sentenced to more than five years for physical or sexual abuse of children will be granted parole only... in circumstances which are generally exceptional."

The Home Office is preparing circulars on the treatment of children in long-term hospital care and also on staff employed in independent schools.

A project is under way by the Metropolitan Police and Bexley social services department, using dolls as interviewing aids to help children explain what has been done to them in cases of abuse.

Mr Hurd said that encouraging greater reporting of cases of abuse was a step forward, as shown by the response to the recent Child Watch programme.

Letters, page 13

Record takings as shops ignore law

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

Shops and stores which defied Sunday trading laws by opening yesterday reported record takings for a pre-Christmas Sunday.

Those which opened in areas where local authorities have banned Sunday trading were mainly do-it-yourself, furniture and garden stores.

In London, Greenford and Southall were busiest, with MFI, W H Smith's Do It All, B & Q and garden centres doing brisk business.

"Trade has never been better, all the big DIYs and garden centres around here are open today, as well as hundreds of small shops in Southall", the Greenford B & Q said.

Do It All in Edgware Road, London, said Christmas trees were their most popular item.

"All the competition around here has opened - Homebase, Texas, Payless and B & Q. I don't think the local council approve, but business is great," the deputy manager, Mr Jeremy Hugo, said.

Some stores were deterred by council disapproval. Texas Homecare in Hayes, north London, was forced to close its doors yesterday after a High Court injunction.

Record takings as shops ignore law

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

Two branches of Woolworth found a way round the problem. The Islington and Kilburn branches satisfy their local authority rules that shops may not open seven days a week. They open on Sundays but close on Mondays.

Some who opened yesterday were reluctant to divulge any details. Halfords in Wood Green, north London, would only admit that no other stores were open in the area.

Great Mills D I Y in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, were open but would not say if any others in the group were.

Many stores said they were forbidden to talk to anyone about Sunday trading.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, chairman of Sort Out Sunday, a campaign to rationalize Sunday trading, said the Sunday trading law was a nonsense.

"The law is out of touch with public opinion, the case for deregulation is very strong. It's ridiculous that you can buy pornography on a Sunday but not a Bible. This matter is bringing the law itself into disrepute."

Cash-back claim over TV ban

By Jonathan Miller Media Correspondent

A BBC television drama about the road transport business will not be televised pending an investigation into the funding of the programme.

The programme, *Night Moves*, was abruptly cancelled on Friday night after the BBC received allegations that up to £75,000 of programme finance had been supplied by the road transport industry.

Company sponsors are demanding the return of £45,000, representing the first two of three instalments they agreed to make towards the programme.

A BBC spokeswoman said yesterday that the drama would not be shown "until we are totally clear about the relationship between the suppliers of some of the trucks and the source of the co-production finance brought in by the independent production company."

Mr Jeff Perks, a director of the independent producers, Riverfront Pictures of Wapping, east London, said yesterday he was consulting his lawyers and would have no comment.

The decision to cancel the broadcast was taken by BBC executives because of fears that the financial arrangements for the programme may have violated the BBC's constitution, which prohibits the televising of sponsored shows.

Money to make the programme was contributed by Volvo Trucks, Petrofina, Bandag Tyres, the Road Haulage Association, TNT Transport, Wincanton Transport, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the trade magazine *Commercial Motor*.

The BBC has delayed the transmission of a six-part television series called *The Secret Society* presented by the left-wing journalist, Mr Duncan Campbell.

The BBC had intended to televise the series on BBC 2 starting next month. But the transmission was cancelled and no new date for broadcast has been set.

Pressure on the BBC to withdraw the series is being applied by the Freedom of Information Association, which is chaired by Mr Norris McWhirter and which counts among its supporters the Conservative MP, Mr Winston Churchill.

A BBC spokesman yesterday said editing of the series would be complete in about two weeks.

The spokesman defended the impartiality of the series, which is understood to take a critical look at the Emergency Powers Act, the accountability of the intelligence services, the use and abuse of data banks, the Cabinet committee system and the techniques used to protect atomic power stations and defence installations.

Portfolio Gold - Five share Christmas surprise

Five readers shared the weekly Portfolio Gold prize of £24,000, each receiving £4,800.

Mrs Caroline Pahnke, aged 30, a teacher, of Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, plans to use her winnings for home improvements. "My first thought was that I could do with a new kitchen," she said. "And with one son aged 18 months, and another baby due in April, the bedrooms could be in for a facelift too."

Mrs Pahnke has been a reader of *The Times* for five years and has played Portfolio Gold since the game started. "Winning was a lovely Christmas surprise," she added.

Another teacher, Mrs Dorry Glocking, of Oxford, plans to use her prize money to help her children. "I have four children, two of them at college in London, which is expensive, so the money will go towards the family."

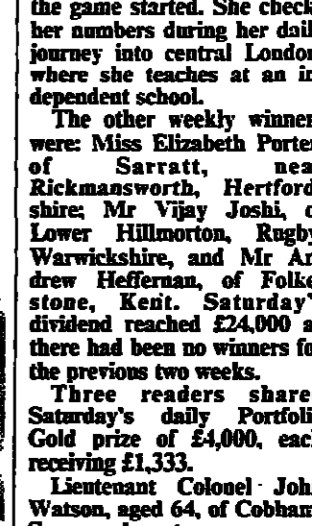
Mrs Glocking has been a reader of *The Times* for nearly three years, and has also been playing Portfolio Gold since the game started. She checks her numbers during her daily journey into central London, where she teaches at an independent school.

The other weekly winners were: Miss Elizabeth Porter, of Sarratt, near Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire; Mr Vijay Joshi, of Lower Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwickshire; and Mr Andrew Hefferman, of Folkestone, Kent. Saturday's dividend reached £24,000 as there had been no winners for the previous two weeks.

Three readers shared Saturday's daily Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000, each receiving £1,333.

Lieutenant Colonel John Watson, aged 64, of Cobham, Surrey, plans to use some of his prize towards a trip to Papua New Guinea, where he will visit his son. The Lieutenant Colonel, who is retired, is a regular reader of *The Times* and has been playing Portfolio Gold since the game started.

Mr Adam Leigowicz, aged 29, a plant engineer, of Northwich, Cheshire, plans to spend some of his winnings on seasonal celebrations. "It's very useful just before



Mrs Dorry Glocking, devoting her win to her children.

Six held over death at match

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

Six men will appear before magistrates in Scarborough today to face charges in connection with the sudden death of Mr Barry Adamson, chairman of the town's football club.

Police last night refused to say what charges the six will face but said they were not Leeds United supporters as had been reported earlier.

A post-mortem examination of Mr Adamson was carried out yesterday by Dr Michael Green, a Home Office pathologist, and an inquest will open this morning.

Mr Adamson, aged 47, a clerk at the Department of Health and Social Security, who weighed 20 stone, was involved in an incident as he and Mr Don Robinson, his predecessor at Scarborough, and now chairman of Hull City, went to reason with rowdy supporters in an almost empty corner of the stadium.

Police were busy dealing with a group who had tried to force their way in at the main gates without paying and it was several minutes before they could take effective action.

At half-time in the match which Scarborough won 1-0, the police started to take statements and as Mr Adamson was assisting he collapsed and was dead on arrival at Scarborough Hospital.

Yesterday police were trying to piece together the sequence of events which led to the death at the usually peaceful ground.

Mr Robinson said: "I am shattered by all this and I shall never try to deal with a crowd again. Everything was so friendly and then it all went wrong."

Mr Adamson leaves a wife, Betty, and a teenage son, Andrew, who were both on duty at the ground. Mrs Adamson in the club shop and her son selling programmes.

Police defend informer in Gandhi conspiracy

By Craig Seton

Senior detectives have defended their undercover operation to smash the plot by two Sikhs who were jailed for conspiring to assassinate Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister.

Jarnail Ranuana, aged 46, a company director and Sakvinder Gill, aged 30, a dyer, both of Leicester, were sentenced to 16 years and 14 years imprisonment respectively at Birmingham Crown Court on Saturday.

They were found guilty of conspiracy to murder Mr Gandhi, and soliciting two undercover policemen, who pretended to be IRA gunmen, to kill him during his official visit to Britain 15 months ago.

Ranuana was additionally convicted of possessing a .38 revolver and supplying heroin. A third man, Parmatma Marwaha, aged 43, a jeans factory owner, also of Leicester, was acquitted and released.

Mr Justice McCullough said: "You have brought dishonour on the Sikh population in the United Kingdom."

Ranuana and Gill shouted: "Long live Khalistan" - a reference to Sikh demands for an independent Sikh state in

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India - as they were sentenced and afterwards 200 Sikh supporters blocked a road outside the court for four hours.

Leicestershire police said that the use of two undercover policemen acting as IRA killers for hire and an underworld informer who tipped police off about the Sikh plot had been proper.

Defence counsel had accused the undercover policemen of acting as agents provocateurs in a plot set up by the police informer, known only as John. The informer has now, with the help of police, gone into hiding.

Det Insp Albert Shevas, head of the Leicestershire drug squad, said of the police informer: "We owe him a debt of gratitude. Whatever people say about him he put himself and his family at risk and he gave evidence twice, when he was severely attacked."

"Without people like him coming forward, we would not be able to act."

Parmatma Marwaha, the released Sikh, said of the case: "If there was any conspiracy, it was a conspiracy between the British and Indian governments."

Optimism over annual drink-drive campaign

By a Staff Reporter

This year's seasonal campaign against drinking and driving has been "well received", the Department of Transport said yesterday, on the eve of the key period for testing its success.

The department and the police have this year tried to widen the campaign to cover not only the Christmas and New Year period but the year as a whole. The £600,000 campaign hinges on slogans such as "If you drink and drive you're a menace to society."

The first test of the department's optimism is expected today, when a number of big police forces are likely to issue their first figures.

Already a note of pessimism has been struck in Sussex, where the head of the force's accident prevention unit said: "Figures reveal a total disregard by some drivers for their own and other people's safety." Chief Insp Rod Winter said too many motorists were ignoring the present campaign.

In the past two weeks, Sussex police have arrested 144 motorists for being over the legal alcohol limit. They are to issue more figures today.

Many forces, including the Metropolitan Police, have this year abandoned mounting extra patrols against drunk drivers in line with the new general campaign.

Optimism over annual drink-drive campaign

By a Staff Reporter

Britain comply with EEC standards for bathing.

Notoriously polluted beaches can still be found in each of the 10 water authority districts in England and Wales, according to Mr Tony Wakefield, director and founder of the Coastal Anti-Pollution League.

Mr Wakefield, who started the league in 1958 after his daughter contracted polio from swimming in sewage-ridden water, said: "Water authorities are finally taking the problem seriously. They've had to. We've given them awful publicity and so has the EEC. Between us, we've shamed them into action."

Advice service for patients on blacklist

By a Staff Reporter

A counselling service to try to maintain good relations between doctors and patients is to be tried out in Wales in response to increasing evidence of a breakdown in communications.

The West Glamorgan Community Health Council, alarmed by the growing incidence of doctors refusing to treat patients, is to set up a counselling service to help people whose general practitioners no longer wish to see them.

Community health officers believe the counselling is necessary to help patients get over the shock of being refused treatment. But they also hope that the new service may preempt doctors from resorting to such drastic action.

Doctors can refuse to see patients without giving any reason, but there is always a hard core, such as the patient in Wales who regularly directs traffic in the nude, whose behaviour doctors find unacceptable. Straightforward personality clashes and increased tensions between the surgery and the waiting room also take their toll.

In West Glamorgan last year, of the 316 patients refused treatment by GPs, 67 had difficulty getting accepted by another practice.

Blackpool comes clean over polluted beaches

By a Staff Reporter

The twenty-year push to improve the quality of British bathing waters has taken a big step forward with the start of preliminary testing at Blackpool's often criticized beach.

The North West Water Authority is to spend £1.5 million on an extensive research programme into local tides and currents.

The move is aimed at helping choose a sewage disposal scheme which will eliminate problems caused by excessive bacteria content in the water.

The research, which involves sophisticated water monitoring through radar surveys and mathematical models, and periodic sampling of the

Blackpool comes clean over polluted beaches

By a Staff Reporter

beach, is part of a multimillion pound, national clean-up of beaches.

The Victorian legacy of short outfall pipes, which gush untreated sewage into the sea only yards offshore, is still apparent at some of the most famous bathing spots, including Blackpool, Scarborough in north Yorkshire, St Ives and Penzance in Cornwall, and Great Yarmouth in Norfolk.

Water authorities throughout the country are investing a total of £280 million in an ambitious plan to modernize the most ineffective of Britain's 400 sea sewage-outfalls.

Locally discharged, untreated sewage is the source of

Blackpool comes clean over polluted beaches

By a Staff Reporter

bacteriological contamination which can cause ear, nose and throat infections, upset stomachs and skin rashes to swimmers.

The solution is to install new onshore sewage treatment plants, or pump the effluent further out to sea through much longer coastal outfall pipes, or both.

The cost is immense and as no government funding is available, water authorities have to negotiate special loans or raise the money through increases in charges.

For some authorities, the combination of a large coastline, a small winter population and a large influx of tourists in

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By a Staff Reporter

summer presents a serious problem.

The South West Water Authority, which covers popular summer destinations, including Devon and Cornwall, some of Somerset and Lyme Regis in Dorset, has just monitored 92 beaches, of which 25 failed to meet the EEC standard for water cleanliness.

Monitoring is to continue on another 92 beaches next summer and a £30 million capital works programme is under way to tackle the worst places, but the authority estimates it would need to spend £200 million to meet the Government's stated aim of having 350 beaches around

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Home Office fails to curb release of psychopaths

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Home Office ministers have lost their battle to impose tighter controls on the powers of mental health tribunals to release psychopaths from hospitals.

In spite of concern about four recent cases where psychopathic offenders who had been sent to special hospitals were released and committed similar offences, the law is not to be changed and tribunals will continue to be able to release such offenders on medical grounds.

The decision represents a victory for Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, who was against the Mental Health Act being amended so soon after its 1983 introduction.

He argued that the proposals would not necessarily lead to greater protection for the public.

A joint Home Office and Department of Health and Social Security working party recommended tighter controls in a consultation document published in August.

It was compiled after anxiety concerning a case in which a tribunal overruled the wishes of the Home Secretary and discharged a psychopath detained for the manslaughter of a girl aged 12.

On his release James Kay committed two serious assaults on women and is now serving a six-years sentence.

Kay was discharged from Park Lane special hospital, near Liverpool, by a mental health tribunal in spite of Home Office objections.

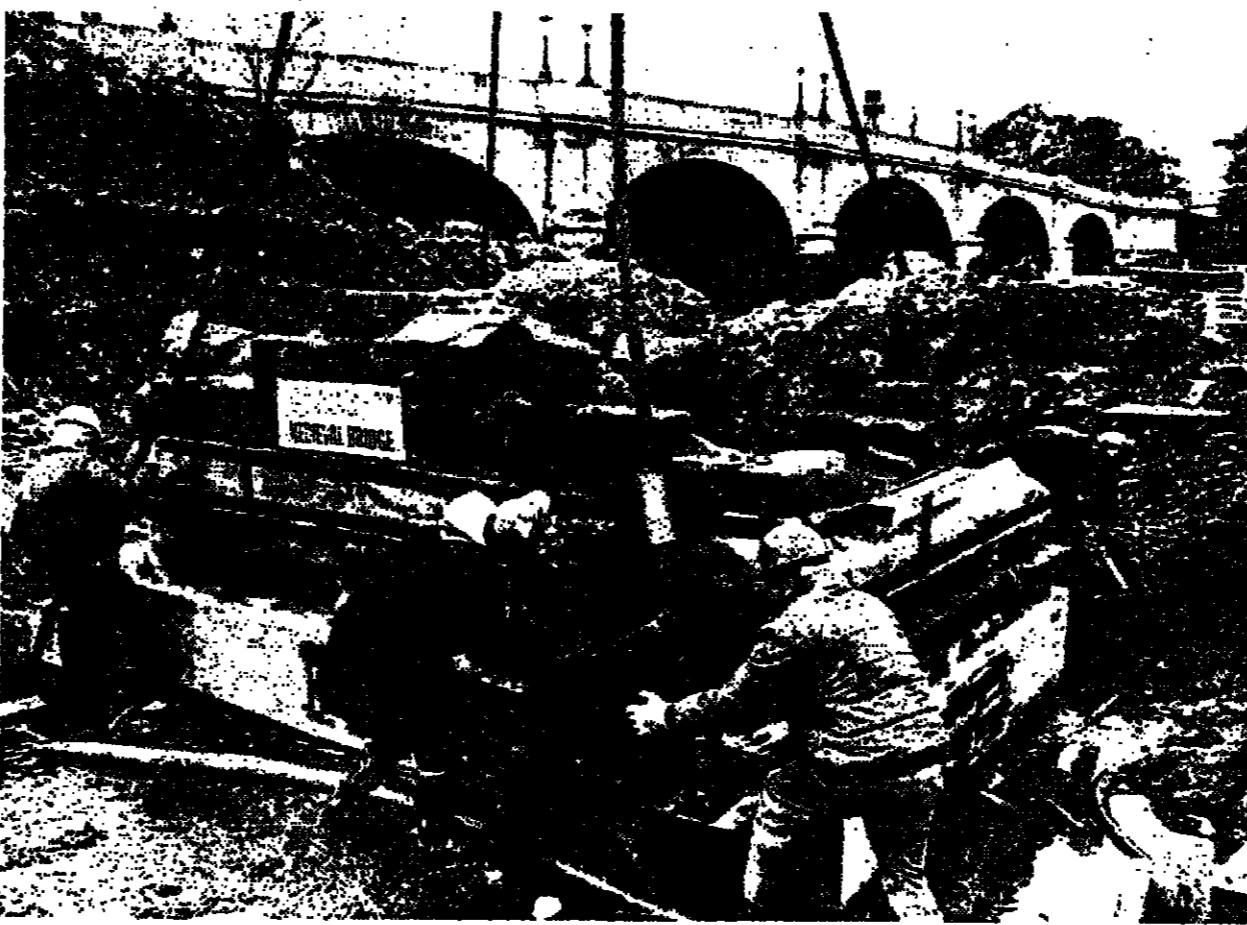
In July, Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, who was a keen advocate of a change in the law, said that between September 1983 and the end of last year 38 patients had been discharged by tribunals, and four were known to have committed similar subsequent serious offences.

The consultation paper proposed a change in section 37 of the Mental Health Act to enable courts to send an offender requiring treatment direct to a hospital; the offender would spend a specified minimum period either in hospital or after hospital treatment, in prison.

Since a judgement by the European Court of Human Rights in 1981, doctors on tribunals have been empowered to release offenders, even if there are fears in the Home Office that the public may be at risk.

But in a Commons written reply, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said: "We have decided not to proceed with an amendment to the Mental Health Act."

No reasons were given, but Home Office sources said later that the weight of opinion had been against change, that only small numbers of cases were involved, and that the 1983 Act, debated at length, had been in operation for only a short time.



Workmen prepare to lift part of the medieval bridge from a site in Kingston upon Thames (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Medieval bridge put in movable plaster cast

By Pearce Wright

A special technique was developed to preserve the remains of a medieval bridge so that it could be moved and put into storage for two years. The foundations and the undercroft, or supporting bolt, once carried an ancient wooden bridge believed to date from the twelfth century.

The ancient remains were uncovered at Kingston upon Thames, London, during archaeological investigations before the development of a site for the John Lewis stores group. It took 12 weeks to prepare for removal.

The method was devised by Fynford South, a group of specialist structural engineers, and involved scraping the earth from beneath the structures to put steel supports underneath in preparation for reinforcing concrete underpinning.

The undercroft was fitted with supporting struts and coated with epoxy resin to protect it during the lift and its journey on a 48-wheel trailer.

For further protection, it was covered with hessian and plaster that can be easily removed.

The intention is to return the bridge to the site when development is complete.

Teacher who betrayed Bamber may lose job

By Michael Horsnell

Miss Julie Mugford, who betrayed Jeremy Bamber to the police, may have to give up her career as a teacher only a week after receiving her education degree from Princess Anne.

During the trial for murder of her former boy friend in October Miss Mugford, aged 22, admitted that she had smoked cannabis with him, accompanied him on a burglary, and been involved in cashing worthless cheques in London.

She has since been under suspension from the south London primary school where she taught. She faces a disciplinary hearing.

Miss Mugford said yesterday: "A lot of what I have done many other teachers have done."

Miss Mugford told Chelmsford Crown Court that Bamber, aged 25, had plotted for months to murder his family to inherit nearly £500,000 from his parents.

He was given five life sentences for shooting dead his adoptive parents, Nevill and Julie Bamber, his sister, Sheila, and her twin sons, aged six, at the family home at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex.

Farming surpluses: 1 Forest planting a possible curb on food mountains

As the EEC struggles to contain farm surpluses, forestry is attracting increasing attention as an economically and environmentally beneficial alternative land use. In the first of three articles, John Young, Agriculture correspondent, outlines the issues.

On the wall of the office of Professor Colin Spedding, director for the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University, are a number of maps of land use in Europe.

The most immediately striking feature is the relatively tiny area of Britain under forestry compared with the great swathes of green covering much of the Continent.

Woods and forests occupy only 10 per cent of our total land; among the developed countries of the northern hemisphere only Ireland and The Netherlands have fewer trees. In France the proportion is 27 per cent, in West Germany 30 per cent, Spain 31 per cent and Finland 76 per cent.

Nowadays it is easy to forget that just as farming was left to founder, so the woodlands, stripped to supply the needs of war and industrial revolution, were not adequately replaced.

Although there have been considerable, and frequently controversial, replanting during the past 20 years, we still import more than 90 per cent of our timber and timber products, at a cost to the balance of payments last year of more than £4,500 million.

The forecasts are that timber will become scarcer and more expensive. The producing countries are also likely to switch to exporting the more valuable finished product.

A second very important reason for planting more trees is the general acceptance of the need to take a certain amount of land out of agriculture to reduce surpluses.

Practically every investigation of alternative land uses has concluded that forestry and farm woodlands make the most sense economically and offer the only means of utilizing unwanted farmland on the scale required.

The Dutch, who have probably the most intensive agricultural structure in the world have come to much the same conclusion.

The obvious difficulty is that forestry provides no financial reward for a dauntingly long period. Apart from marginal returns from coppicing, it is likely to be 60 years or so before conifers become marketable and as much as 150 years before hardwoods reach maturity; although Britain has one of the most favourable climates in the world for growing timber.

There are numerous, and frequently generous, grants and tax concessions for tree planting. But these are aimed primarily at large landowners.

Compensating farmers for income lost by not growing arable crops or keeping livestock is a different matter. However the National Farmers' Union has calculated that a realistic annual payment for woodland planting and maintenance would be cheaper than continuing to subsidize surpluses.

Tomorrow: Arguments against

Christmas travel

Extra trains and coaches laid on

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Hundreds of extra coaches and trains will be running from today until Christmas Eve as transport operators try to cope with three of the busiest travelling days of the year.

British Rail will operate 150 extra Inter-City services and National Express, the long distance arm of the National Bus Company, will have 1,500 coaches on the roads.

Outline of main services:

British Rail

- December 22 and 23: Normal weekday service with extra trains to some destinations.
- Christmas Eve: Normal Wednesday service, with extra services early in the day, and some evening commuter trains cancelled. The system will close by 10pm, with most trains starting their last journeys before then.
- Christmas Day and Boxing Day: No services.
- December 27: Normal Saturday service, although most early morning trains will not run.
- December 28: Normal Sunday service.
- December 29 and 30: Normal weekday service but with reduced commuter services.
- December 31: Normal Wednesday service in Scotland

but with last trains generally running before 10pm. No overnight trains except for Irish boat trains to and from Holyhead.

● **New Year's Day:** No services in Scotland. Inter-City trains will not run north of Carlisle or Newcastle. No local services in north-east England. Most Network SouthEast services will operate to a Sunday timetable.

London bus and Underground

There will be no bus or Underground services in London on Christmas Day, apart from the A1 Airbus to Heathrow. There will be special services on Boxing Day for buses and Underground. On December 29, 30, 31 and January 2, most bus services will run to Saturday timetables. Buses and Underground will run to Sunday timetables on New Year's Day.

On New Year's Eve, travel on London buses and the Underground will be free after 11.45pm.

National Express

The National Bus Company, including its long distance arm, will operate very few services on Christmas Day, although there will be some services to hospitals. There will be services from London to many large cities on Boxing Day.

RAC is to list barrier priorities

By Our Transport Correspondent

The Royal Automobile Club is to supply the Department of Transport with a list of dual carriageway trunk roads which it regards as being of top priority for the installation of central crash barriers.

This comes after an announcement by Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister for Roads and Traffic, that in future the barriers would be installed on most such roads. The barriers, designed to prevent vehicles crossing from one carriageway to the other, are installed on most motorways, but only exceptionally on trunk roads.

Major roadworks until Monday, January 5:

- A3 Putney: Night time turning restrictions at junction with A306, Roehampton Lane. One week from today.
- M11 London: Major roadworks at Redbridge roundabout (A12), M25 Kent Lane restrictions between junctions 5 and 7 (Sittingbourne and Faversham). Until end of December.
- M20 Kent: Contraflow between junctions 7 and 8 (Maidstone). Till December 31.
- M27 Hampshire: Contraflow near Southampton between junctions 2 and 3 (A31 and M27). No westbound exit at junction 2 and no westbound entry at junction 3 from M27.

Midlands

- M5 West Midlands: Two lanes both ways between junctions 5 and 6 (Droitwich and Worcester) and some lane closures

between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove and M6). M50 Hereford and Worcester: Contraflow east of junction 4 (A49 Ross-on-Wye). M54 West Midlands: Various lane closures between junctions 2 and 7 (A449 Wolverhampton and A5 Wellington).

North

- M1 South Yorkshire: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (A57 Worksop and A630 Rotherham). Slip road closures at junctions 31 and 32 (M18 Interchange).
- M6 Lancashire: Roadworks at junction 23 (Merseyside) until end of December. Contraflow between junctions 29 and 32 (A6 Preston and M55 interchange).
- M61 Blaeow Bridge, Lancashire: Construction work at M6 interchange. Lane closures both directions.
- M63 Greater Manchester: Major widening at Barton Bridge. Various restrictions between junctions 1 and 2 (M62 and A57), avoid if possible.
- M63 Greater Manchester: Link road from A34, junction 10, to M63 northbound, carriageway reduced to single lane only for bridge painting.

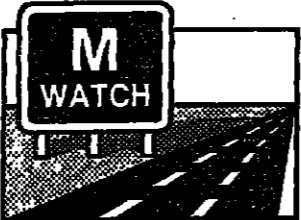
Wales and the West

- M5 A-son and Somerset: Lane closures both ways between junctions 26 and 27 (Wellington and Tiverton). Finishes tomorrow.

Scotland

- M8 Glasgow: Construction work between junctions 15 and 17 (city centre and Dumbarrow).
- A74 Lanarkshire: Contraflow south of Abington.
- A82 Dumbarrowshire: Major roadworks south of Ardul. Delays likely.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch. Other roadworks, page 16.



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Bush says Iran arms scandal hurt his chance for presidency

Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States Vice-President, Mr George Bush, has acknowledged that the Iranian arms controversy has cost him his lead in the race for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination. He said he shared the blame for the scandal.

A new opinion poll shows that his popularity has fallen substantially, leaving him with only a marginal lead over Senator Robert Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate. "I wish it hadn't happened," he said. "Everybody should share in the blame."

While he was "no longer the front-runner", he said it was nonsense to suggest that he and President Reagan would "stay down" in popularity. He refused to answer certain key questions about his role in the affair, saying: "I don't discuss inside workings of the White House."

Senator Dole is doing nothing to still the flames of controversy. He said that Mr Reagan had not yet convinced the American public that he had done all he could to get at the truth.

"He urged the appointment of a special counsel, he let his people testify on the (Capitol) Hill, and so on. But there is still a lot of confusion out there, still a feeling that he has to do something bold himself to clear the air," he said.

A poll sponsored by US News & World Report and Cable News Network shows that as a result of the scandal Mr Bush is now the choice of 25 per cent of those questioned, compared to 20 per cent for Senator Dole. In the past Mr Bush's lead has been as high as 37 points.

Asked whether he and Mr Reagan should have known about the diversion of money to the Nicaraguan Contras, he said: "I think something that important, the answer is yes. There are a lot of details that I would answer definitively no, but something like that, sure."

He made his remarks in a local poll among Republicans showed that Senator Dole had overtaken him by 28 points to 25. Seven months ago a similar poll gave Mr Bush a 34 to 16 per cent lead.

According to *The Washington Post* yesterday, the Reagan Administration in recent weeks has sent new messages to Iran encouraging relations, although arms sales would not be part of the bargain. The report was denied by the State Department.

But the paper quoted a State Department official as saying that it was important for the US to continue making serious and persistent efforts to improve relations because Iran is a key country in a strategic area.

● **Khashoggi funds:** Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer, borrowed \$4 million from Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the British businessman, to help to finance a secret arms sale to Iran. *The Sunday Times* said yesterday (Nicholas Beeston writes).

The newspaper, claiming to have obtained the transcript of parts of an American TV interview which was never broadcast, said the arms dealer and Iranian middleman approached Mr Rowland, chief executive of the *Lorndo* group, to try to raise \$35 million for weapons shipments.

Waite plans Beirut trip for new hostage talks

By Nicholas Beeston

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, said yesterday he planned to return to Beirut to resume negotiations for the release of Western hostages.

He said that the timing of his return to Lebanon depended on whether he received guarantees for his security, but he did not rule out the possibility of flying in to Beirut on Christmas Eve.

Following disclosures in Washington about the White House's arms for hostages deal with Iran, he said his mission had been set back and his contacts had gone underground.

"In the last two or three weeks I have resumed my contacts in Lebanon," he told *The Times*.

McCarthy of Essex, and Mr Brian Keenan of Belfast, and two Americans, Mr Terry Anderson and Mr Thomas Sutherland.

Western sources indicated that some progress has been made in the case of Mr McCarthy, the acting bureau chief for *Worldwide Television News*, who was kidnapped in April by unidentified gunmen.

He accused the Cuban regime of seeking to break political prisoners by forcing them "to vegetate completely". It was only in the last few months in jail that he had been able to read any books, he said.



Mr Terry Waite: Ready to resume Lebanon contacts.

Home again — to a daughter not seen since 1966

Hero of Cuba's revolt set free

From Richard Wigg Madrid

After enduring 21 years in jail as a political prisoner, Señor Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, a Spanish-born hero of the Cuban revolution, arrived here yesterday having been freed by President Castro.

"At all times in prison, in the dungeons, I want to tell you, I felt a solidarity in spite of being kept incommunicado," the former guerrilla leader, aged 57, said during a brief emotional appearance at Madrid's Barajas Airport after a direct flight from Havana.

Señor Gutierrez, one of two foreign-born "commandantes" who led the fight against the Batista regime — the other was Señor Ernesto "Che" Guevara — was freed in time for Christmas thanks to an appeal to President Castro by Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, when visiting Cuba last month.

Though speaking with a strong voice and looking reasonably well when he thanked Señor González and King Juan Carlos for his liberation, Señor Gutierrez put off reporters' questioning for a day or two.

"I am overcome with the emotions of arriving," he said, embracing a 24-year-old daughter he had not seen for 20 years.

The former guerrilla, who became disillusioned with the Castro regime's growing alignment with the Soviet Union, had left Madrid as a child towards the end of the Civil War, in which his father fought in the Republican Army.

Señor Gutierrez entered Havana one week before Dr Castro, and was afterwards given Cuban citizenship.

But he left Cuba in 1961, returning with an armed band of Cuban exiles living in the United States.

He was first sentenced to death in 1965 for "rebellion against the fatherland", afterwards commuted to 30 years' jail but given a 25-year additional sentence in a subsequent trial for allegedly leading anti-Castro forces from jail.

Since the advent of Spanish democracy in 1977, repeated efforts had been made to secure his release.

Señor Gutierrez, in an interview with a Spanish reporter who travelled with him from Cuba broadcast yesterday after his arrival, explained his changed attitude to the revolution.

He said that he fought in the revolution for profound changes and that to him it did not mean tyranny or repression. He denied President Castro's claim that he had been a CIA agent.

He accused the Cuban regime of seeking to break political prisoners by forcing them "to vegetate completely". It was only in the last few months in jail that he had been able to read any books, he said.



Señor Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, freed after 21 years in Cuban jails, embracing his daughter.

Chinese demonstrations may herald fresh power struggle

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Observers of Chinese affairs here are divided as to whether the student demonstrations in Shanghai at the weekend are a spontaneous affair or yet another manifestation of a power struggle in the Chinese leadership.

Shanghai has always been volatile and the fiercest struggles of the Cultural Revolution took place there. All the members of the now-jailed "Gang of Four" — including Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, Jiang Qing — had Shanghai backgrounds.

But hardly any violence has been reported from Shanghai, despite the scores of thousands of people who have

reportedly taken to the streets, mostly students, demanding "democratic reforms".

Foreign residents in Shanghai yesterday said there was no hostility to foreigners and the mood of the crowds was good, although the police seemed to be becoming tense.

One line of speculation is that supporters of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman, have fomented the demonstrations through the student children of officials, to serve notice on less liberal Party circles that a return to the chaotic politics of the Mao period will not be tolerated.

Mr Deng has promised to retire this year, but doubts

Voyager record bid

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Tired pilots set for early landfall

The frail Voyager aircraft is due to touch down in California's Mojave Desert on Christmas Eve, a day earlier than scheduled and still with plenty of fuel aboard.

Its two crew, however, suffering from exhaustion after a particularly violent Africa crossing in which they were repeatedly thrown against the walls and top of their small compartment, have become forgetful and nearly lost one of the two engines after they failed to top it up with oil.

Mr Peter Riva, the Voyager spokesman, said that Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager were over the Atlantic when they noticed one engine was dangerously hot. "They were supposed to check the oil every six hours, but had neglected to do so for a day and a half. The engine was not damaged."

made up to yesterday, there was little doubt that Voyager was going to achieve the first non-stop flight around the world without refuelling. According to data issued on Saturday, it had covered 18,212 miles since taking off from Edwards Air Force Base last Sunday, and had about 7,000 miles to go.

It was soaring easily over the Atlantic yesterday, making good speed on favourable tail winds. But, according to Mr Len Snellman, the flight meteorologist, a bad weather system will block the plane from taking a southern approach to the United States and instead it will have to cross Costa Rica to the Pacific and turn north, probably up the Gulf of California.

The pilots had to strap on oxygen masks and take the plane to its maximum altitude of 18,000 ft in search of the Atlantic tail winds, before reducing height.

Activists set sights on Canada fur cull

From John Best, Ottawa

The animal rights activists who a few years ago killed off Canada's seal fishing industry have now switched their attack to the country's fur trapping trade.

The House of Commons Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development produced a report which describes the activists as "a wealthy growth industry".

The report said that the fur industry and the livelihood of about 100,000 trappers, the majority of them Eskimos and Indians, are in danger of destruction.

"For many native and non-native people, trapping is an essential part of life," the report said. "Yet trapping is coming under increasing attack from the animal rights movement, which is opposed to any kind of animal use. Their strategy is to eliminate the consumer market for fur products."

More than 90 per cent of the four million wild fur pelts harvested annually in Canada by trapping, and about half the fur garments, are exported.

The committee's report preceded the final report of a royal commission on Canada's ill-fated seal industry, set up two years ago after overseas markets for seal pelts had collapsed under the weight of a determined international lobby against the seal hunt.

The report said that trapping "has always been and should remain" an essential part of Canada's cultural and economic mosaic. As well as its \$Can 600 million (£300 million) in direct earnings, the industry generates about \$Can 200 million a year for allied industries, such as transport.

organization, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, has more than 500,000 members and a net annual income of more than \$Can 6 million within the United States alone.

In Britain, a centre of the anti-fur campaign, groups such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had moved from a traditional position of animal welfare, which allowed humane use of animals, to a "very strong anti-fur position".

Pamphlets, films and newspaper advertisements used by activist groups to solicit funds depict a frenzied and frightened animal struggling to free its mangled and bleeding foot from the jaws of a steel-toothed leghold trap but the report says such traps are no longer used.

Sixty-five per cent of animals killed for fur in Canada are caught by quick-kill traps. Of the rest, two-thirds are semi-aquatic and are taken in water, the leghold being used as a quick-kill drowning set. The rest are trapped on land by modern leghold traps, with padded or offset jaws.

The report is sharply critical of Canada's foreign service for allegedly having failed to stand up for Canadian trappers in the face of attacks from abroad, and calls on the External Affairs Department to stiffen its spine instead of acting, in the words of one witness, like "an ostrich that would really prefer the problem to go away".

It calls on Canadian governments — wildlife is primarily a provincial responsibility in Canada — to devote more attention to trapper education and better trapping methods.

Shultz to meet Tambo in US

Washington — Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is to meet Mr Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC), next month in Washington (Christopher Thomas writes).

The encounter represents a breakthrough in international recognition of the main guerrilla force seeking to topple the white minority Government of South Africa. The Reagan Administration insists that the purpose is not to legitimize a military movement but "to facilitate a dialogue between the Government of South Africa and the legitimate voice of the black community".

Mr Shultz has previously stated a willingness to meet Mr Tambo despite "serious questions" about ANC objectives, tactics and communist influence among its officials.

The meeting was arranged in Lusaka during three hours of talks between Mr Michael Armacost, the US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs and senior ANC officials.

Pretoria tightens curbs on press, page 7

Reporter still held Iran says 80 killed

Harare — The Zambian authorities were yesterday still holding Mr John Edlin, aged 41, the Associated Press correspondent arrested on Friday while on his way to cover recent food riots in the country's Copper Belt (A Correspondent writes).

Friends said that the veteran New Zealand journalist, who was visited by a Zambian lawyer yesterday, looked haggard and unkempt when they took food and toiletries to him in remand prison. Lusaka has still not said why he is being held.

Tehran (Reuter) — More than 80 civilians were killed in an Iraqi air raid on Iran's western city of Bakhtar yesterday, the Iranian news agency Irna reported. It said that Iran would retaliate with 24 hours of long-range artillery fire on Iraqi military and industrial areas.

Irna said Iraqi fighter-bombers hit residential areas of the city, 50 miles from the central front of the six-year-old war, and attacked the town of Es-lanabad-e Charb, in Bakhtar province.

Two die in Goa riot

New Delhi (Reuter) — Troops were called out in Goa last night after two people were killed and 14 wounded as rival groups battled with guns and iron bars during language riots in the popular seaside resort on India's west coast.

The Press Trust of India said that troops marched into the riot-torn town of Margao as a minister's home was ransacked and sabotage blacked out Panaji, the territorial capital, which has 80,000 people.

PTI said scores of rioters had been arrested in four days of violence by thousands of demonstrators demanding statehood for Goa, with the local Konkani its official language, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of India's takeover of the tiny former Portuguese enclave.

Costly attack

Madrid — The explosion and fire which destroyed a French-owned factory purifying industrial waste near Bilbao on Friday night was the most costly blow against property so far by Eta's military wing in the Basque country, according to insurance experts (Richard Wigg writes).

They put the damage around £10 million, and the devastated company is now threatening to withdraw its operations from the Basque region of northern Spain.

Escaper cornered

Bonn — A convicted police-killer who escaped from a clinic after a September leg operation was recaptured by a special police unit on Saturday on the North Sea island of Sylt (John England writes).

Alfred Lecki, aged 48, who was serving a life sentence for shooting a policeman in 1972, is known as Germany's "escape king". The Bonn clinic escapee was his fourth escape from custody since 1968.

Quisling quandary

Oslo — Vidkun Quisling, the Norwegian leader under Nazi occupation, was also a bigamist, according to lawyers acting for his first wife (Tony Samstag writes).

The traitor, whose name has entered the language as a term of revilement, has since 1984 been at the centre of a convoluted court case about ownership of the "Quisling archive", documents found in the cellar of an Oslo grocery.

He married twice. His second wife, Maria, died in 1980, and now his first wife claims there was no divorce, and that Maria Quisling, who bequeathed all her documents to the nation, had no right to do so.

Woman priest

Mrs Linda Poindexter, left, the wife of Vice Admiral John Poindexter, who resigned as President Reagan's National Security Adviser over the arms to Iran scandal, was ordained a priest at the Episcopal church in Washington.



Zimbabwe minister demoted

From A Correspondent Harare

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, has announced the demotion of Dr Eddison Zvobgo, his Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, from his position within the ruling Zanu (PF) Party hierarchy.

Dr Zvobgo, once thought to be among the most powerful of his lieutenants, was dismissed at the weekend by the Zanu (PF) central committee as chairman of its Masvingo Provincial Organization. He retains his cabinet post.

Mr Mugabe said Dr Zvobgo, aged 51, had been found guilty of using "obscene" and "tribalistic" language to a superior in the party.

Observers in Harare believe his demotion raises important questions about the unity of the dominant Shona language group in Zimbabwe at a time when Mr Mugabe is trying to heal long-standing rift with Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu supporters in Matabeleland.

Dr Zvobgo was at one stage the most notable politician among the traditionally powerful Karanga sub-tribe, which lives in the south-part of the country around Masvingo (formerly Fort Victoria).

A lawyer who spent 10 years in detention in Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesia, Dr Zvobgo has recently been drafting a new one-party state constitution which Mr Mugabe hopes to introduce next year.

Spaniards pray for 'El Gordo'

From Harry Debelius Madrid

"The Fat One" is poised to land in Spain today with a sackful of gifts that would make Father Christmas look like Scrooge.

Spain's annual Christmas lottery, the biggest in the world, will create a number of instant millionaires — in pounds — and make dreams come true for countless Spaniards by distributing £389 million in cash.

El Gordo — "The Fat One" — is what Spaniards affectionately call the top prize number. With an average investment of about £14 in the Christmas draw by every man, woman and child, there is hardly a Spaniard who is not hoping for a yuletide visit from "The Fat One".

In Spain even the biggest winners can collect their prize in total, and without delay. Business grinds to a halt on December 22, the day of the draw, and radio and television broadcast the event live.

The ceremony goes on for hours as choirboys pick wooden balls from two wire cages. Each ball in a larger cage has a number painted on it. The other cage has balls with prize amounts painted on them.

One boy sings out the number he has drawn, and immediately another sings out the amount. This process continues until all the prize balls have been removed.

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Kremlin troubleshooter moves quickly to soothe Kazakh feelings

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A leading member of the Kremlin hierarchy spent the weekend in the central Asian republic of Kazakhstan assessing the implications of last week's widespread rioting in Alma-Ata, the capital, and attempting meetings with local residents.

The trouble-shooting mission was undertaken by Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, a member of the 12-strong ruling Politburo and chairman of the Communist Party's control committee. He was accompanied by Mr Gennady Kolbin, the Gorbachov loyalist and Russian national whose appointment as the republic's new Party chief in place of Mr Djamukhamed Kunayev, the veteran Kazakh leader, sparked the protest.

Western observers say that the speed with which a man of Mr Solomentsev's seniority was despatched to the area was confirmation of the seriousness of the street disturbances on Wednesday and Thursday.

They noted that a similar procedure was undertaken after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, when two leading Politburo members were rushed to the Ukraine.

Although the Kremlin's new glasnost (openness) policy has not yet run to giving details of casualties caused during the riots, there have been unconfirmed reports of several people killed in clashes between demonstrators and Soviet militia forces.

A report by Tass from Alma-Ata indicated that food shortages may have played a part in fuelling the battles, which began with what Soviet officials said were student demonstrations exploited by nationalists and "parasites".

The agency said that the two senior officials had discussed "issues aimed at consolidating ties between the city and the countryside". It quoted them as calling for better efforts to meet food planning goals and growing demand.

On television Mr Solomentsev was seen telling workers "We must increase the harvest".

The two also visited Kazakh State University and the State Polytechnic Institute, addressing students and professors on the need to respect "the traditions of internationalism", an apparent rebuke to the nationalist tone of the riots.

Yesterday they attended a special meeting of the republic's Council of Ministers. Reporting the session, Tass said: "Prime attention during the discussion was paid to ways of overcoming shortcomings in Kazakhstan's social and economic development."

During the meeting special emphasis was placed on the need to respond to public demands for more consumer goods.

Thatcher to welcome dissident poet today

By Nicholas Beeson

Miss Irina Ratushinskaya, the Russian dissident poet who arrived in Britain last week, will be welcomed officially by the Prime Minister at Downing Street this morning.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said that Mrs Thatcher made a point of seeing all freed dissidents who came to Britain after long terms of imprisonment.

He said that she would bring up the issue of Soviet human rights violations and the imprisonment of dissidents during her visit to Moscow planned for this spring.

Miss Ratushinskaya, aged 32, who was sentenced to seven years' hard labour in 1983 for anti-Soviet activities and released unexpectedly in October, was granted permission to leave the Soviet Union after a long campaign in the West to secure her release.

Britain in particular championed her cause, with writers and clergymen pressing the Soviet authorities for her freedom, especially when it was known that she had grown increasingly weak.

Germans 'helping' Gadaffi

Hamburg (AP) — West German experts are secretly helping Colonel Gadaffi to build and test missiles in the Libyan desert to replace obsolete Soviet rockets, according to the weekly magazine Stern.

The magazine, which will carry its report on the issue in tomorrow's edition, yesterday leaked excerpts to news agencies.

It said that West German missile and electronics parts were being shipped to Tripoli as "air freight" before being transported 434 miles south to a secret desert construction and test range.

Electronics experts and engineers from West German research institutes were helping the Libyans to build and test the missiles, it said.

One researcher said yesterday that only a qualified spokesman could comment on the report, and none was available.

Stern attributed its report to "documents and records" which it says are being examined by the Karlsruhe Prosecutor's Office and German customs investigators.

It quoted an unidentified spokesman for the prosecutor's office as saying that the authorities had undertaken two investigations "owing to suspicion of illegal war weapons exports and violations of foreign trade laws."

Stern said that the spokesman declined to elaborate on the investigations.

Controversy over alleged illegal arms exports arose in Bonn last month after allegations that a Hamburg ship-builder sold submarine blueprints to South Africa with the tacit approval of the Federal Government.

The conservative-led coalition of Chancellor Kohl has denied having approved the blueprint export. But, under opposition pressure, a parliamentary commission will meet next month to study the allegations.

Stern said that Colonel Gadaffi's missile construction range was located in the Sahara near the Ghat oasis, where the borders of Libya, Niger and Chad converge. It described the area as "Gadaffi's main headquarters".

The new missiles were intended to have a 300-mile range and to allow the Libyans to place in reserve older Soviet Scud and Frog rockets.

Stern said it saw when the missile project began.

Pretoria tightens its curbs on press

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

New restrictions were imposed on three Johannesburg newspapers at the weekend, prohibiting them from carrying any news or comment at all on the "Christmas against the Emergency" campaign in black townships.

The Government's Bureau for Information also placed a half-page advertisement in the Sunday Times of Johannesburg "to set the record straight with regard to the scope, purpose and duration of the Emergency Regulations affecting the media which were promulgated by the State President on December 11".

The three papers subject to the latest special curbs are The Weekly Mail, a small-circulation liberal weekly, and two newspapers written mainly by and for blacks, the Sowetan, a daily, and City Press.

The new order, served on the three papers on Saturday by General Johan Coetzee, the Commissioner of Police, goes much further, prohibiting them from publishing any report, pamphlet, comment or advertisement "in any other way in connection with" the Christmas campaign.

A UDF advertisement calling for support for the Christmas protest, which had earlier been carried by the three papers now prevented from doing so, was yesterday published by The Sunday Star, the Sunday edition of Johannesburg's daily evening paper, The Star.

It remains to be seen whether the police will now restrict The Star, which has a circulation of 200,000, a large proportion of which is among black readers, and which devotes considerable space to black affairs.

As part of the 10-day Christmas protest, which began on December 16, residents of black townships were asked to turn off their electric lights and light candles between 7 and 9 on December 16 and again on December 24, and to light the black national anthem, "Nkosi Sikelel' Afrika" (God Bless Africa).

The protest was widely observed in Soweto on December 16, but both the Sowetan and City Press reported clashes between conservative blanket-clad Basuto vigilantes, known as the "Russians", and young UDF "comrades", who patrolled the townships, enforcing the switching-off of lights.

City Press reported at the weekend that the death toll in these clashes had risen to seven. Other sources said the violence had been fuelled by confusion among residents as to whether candles were to be lit only on December 16 and 24 or throughout the 10-day period.

Under the new censorship, in force since December 11, the South African press is prohibited from publishing any news or comment on a wide range of unrest-related matters, and from reporting a catalogue of statements defined as "subversive".

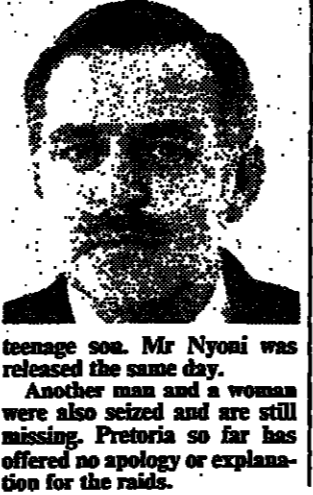
● Body found: The Bureau reported that the body of a man who had been burnt to death, was found in Kwa-Nobule, near Port Elizabeth, on Saturday, and that 22 people were arrested and two injured when the police used birdshot to disperse mobs stoning houses and vehicles in other places.

Botha for Swazi talks

Johannesburg — The South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, will meet Mr Soqja Dlamini, the Prime Minister of Swaziland, in Mbabane in the Swazi capital today in the Swazi capital to reduce the tensions created by armed raids into Swaziland (Michael Hornsby writes).

Just over a week ago South African forces abducted two Swiss nationals from Swaziland, claiming that they were agents of the outlawed African National Congress, only to release them a day later after it became clear that they had seized the wrong people. They also abducted Mr Danger Nyoni, an assistant restaurant manager, and shot dead his teenage son. Mr Nyoni was released the same day.

Another man and woman were also seized and are still missing. Pretoria so far has offered no apology or explanation for the raids.



Mr Soqja Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland.

Defeated Trinidad opposition leader resigns

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain

The new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Arthur Robinson, has assigned no fewer than four ministers to work on the reconstruction of the islands' economy.

As he worked to install a 14-member Cabinet at the weekend his predecessor, Mr George Chambers, resigned as leader of the defeated People's National Movement (PNM), which had been in power for 30 years. In last week's general election Mr Robinson's National Alliance for Reconstruction won a majority of 33 seats to three in the House of Representatives. Decline in economic terms and growing unemployment were major issues.

Mr Robinson himself retains the Finance and Economy portfolio, but has named two ministers to work with him: Mr Selby Wilson, an accountant who was once general manager of the telephone company, and Mr Trevor Sudama, an economist. He also named Mr Winston Dookeran, a university lecturer in economics, as Minister of Planning and Reconstruction.

The crucial energy sector, which supplies most of the national revenue, now has a professional petroleum engineer, Mr Kelvin Ramnath, as its minister. Mr Basdeo Pandy, aged 53, one of two deputy NAR leaders and a veteran union leader who was opposition leader since 1976, is External Affairs Minister. The new Attorney-General is Mr Selwyn Richardson, who held the same post in the 1976-81 PNM Government, when he made his name by campaigning against corruption.

Mr John Humphrey, an architect who developed a successful land distribution scheme supported by the NAR, is named Minister of Works, Settlement and Infrastructure, and Mr Lincoln Myers becomes Minister of Food Production, Marine Exploitation and Forestry.

Other new ministers are Dr Emmanuel Hosein (Health, Welfare and the Status of Women) and Ms Jennifer Johnson (Youth, Culture and Creative Arts). Ministers for Education and National Security are to be named today.

Housing protest turns to battle



Riot police and leftist militants clashing in one of several pitched battles that broke out in Hamburg during a weekend demonstration over housing policy.

The violence, which left 93 police and 31 protesters injured, started as about 10,000 young demonstrators, watched by 2,500 police, marched through central Hamburg to protest against the eviction of tenants from old public housing due to be pulled down next year as part of a road-building project (AP reports).

About 1,000 extremists wearing masks and helmets and carrying crude weapons like clubs, fought with truncheon-carrying police. The disturbances started when police tried to separate the militants from the main body of demonstrators after bank windows were smashed and firecrackers thrown at bystanders. Four protesters were detained for assault and disturbing the peace, but all but one were released by yesterday pending court appearances, Hamburg police said.

Unions boost conflict with Paris Government

The fears of M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, that greater social unrest would develop if he gave way to students' demands, appear well founded.

France is in the grip of a wave of transport strikes which are seriously disrupting the well-laid plans of Christmas holidaymakers.

Most seriously hit are the trains. Localized strikes which began on Thursday have become nationwide as the Communist-backed CGT union has joined the Socialist CPDT union in calling out its men.

Add to that a strike by seamen and a two-day air strike by Air Inter personnel, all of which coincide with the end of the French school term, and a picture of confusion and frustration emerges with holidaymakers waiting around stations and dozing in corners.

SNCF, the state-owned railways, brought in a minimum service plan over the weekend to ensure that most of the prestigious high-speed TGV trains got away from Paris to ski resorts in the Alps.

However, striking railway workers at Chambéry, Savoie, managed to block several trains in the station. It took about an hour before some 1,000 passengers could be transferred to coaches to continue their journey.

Passengers hurried verbal abuse at the strikers as the transfer took place, and police reinforcements were called in.

The link between the Channel ports and Paris was disrupted by coaches carrying passengers who would normally have travelled by train.

Paris suburban trains were badly hit, with only about a quarter of the trains running. Today will be even worse, as Métro workers are due to start a three-day strike.

Ferry services between Corsica and the mainland have been severely hit, and the Government has authorized an Italian ferry company to run between Corsica, Marseilles and Nice.

Mitterrand snubbed as Bill passed

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

President Mitterrand's refusal on Thursday to sign the French Government's decree providing for more flexible working conditions has so angered the right-wing majority that the Government took the unprecedented move of forcing it through Parliament before it rose on Saturday for the Christmas recess.

In a matter of 24 hours the Government turned the decree, the equivalent of a full-scale parliamentary Bill, into an amendment and tacked it on to the end of another Bill on social conditions which was coming up for its second reading.

Furious at what they considered to be a mockery, the socialists tried every trick they knew to delay the last parliamentary session so that the Bill and its amendment would not become law.

But the Government, in a mammoth 24-hour sitting, forced the Bill through and gave it its final Senate reading as well, enabling it to become law.

The socialists immediately sent the Bill to France's Constitutional Council, which will judge whether these forcing tactics are permissible.

If it gives the Bill and its amendment the green light it will come into law; if not the amendment will probably be presented as a Bill during the spring parliamentary session.

Mr Mitterrand's refusal to sign the decree, his third since the right came to power in March, had the backing of trade unions, who saw workers' rights and their own power diminished under the proposed decree.

It allowed for flexible working hours, including night work for women, so that a basic number of hours could be calculated over a period of different shifts. It also allowed, in certain cases, for direct worker negotiation with management.

Mr Mitterrand said that it upset the social status quo and that such proposals should go through Parliament. The Government replied that it was a foundation of their policy of creating more jobs by creating more flexible conditions and that the President was blocking their ability to govern.

This revenge on President Mitterrand can also be seen as a Government morale-boosting operation in the face of student agitation and strikes.

Alpine holidaymakers hit by nationwide transport strikes

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

Corsican families working on the mainland who are trying to get home for Christmas have been stranded and Corsica's important mandarin crop, which has been picked to reach the mainland for Christmas, is in danger of rotting before it can reach the shops.

Many of those heading for the ski resorts changed their plans in the face of the train strike and decided to go by car.

In two areas roads were also blocked on Saturday by hundreds of demonstrators protesting against the closure of a Pechinay factory in one instance and traffic jams on local Alps roads in the other.

The fact that the railway workers have chosen the Christmas period to go on strike threatens to make them unpopular.

They say they want immediate negotiations with SNCF management on salaries and working hours. The SNCF has set January 6 as the first date for negotiations.

Prisoners continue strike for freedom

Dhaka — Riot police ringed Bangladesh's central prison in old Dhaka yesterday as about 3,500 prisoners continued their week-long hunger strike to press for freedom under an amnesty announced last week by President Ershad (Ahmed Fazi writes).

A prison official said that the prisoners were refusing to take food unless their demand for inclusion in the amnesty list was accepted.

The strikers, who include several hundred political prisoners and former independence fighters, are also asking for better living conditions in the crowded jail.

12 blasts

Agaccio (Reuter) — Twelve small bombs exploded in Corsica on Saturday night, damaging property connected with the French mainland but causing no casualties.

Gang assault

New York (Reuter) — New York police are hunting for a gang of about 12 whites who assaulted three blacks, one of whom died when he was struck by a car when fleeing.

Safe haven

San José (Reuter) — A Costa Rican judge has turned down a Soviet request to extradite Mr Bobdan Kozyi, aged 62, a former Ukrainian policeman charged with Nazi war crimes, saying that they were no longer punishable because of the long period since they occurred.

Weather wins

Basle (Reuter) — Two Swiss members of the environmental organization Greenpeace broke off their protest on top of a 395 ft chemical plant chimney when high winds, freezing temperatures and more snow were forecast.

Wrong man

Nairobi (AP) — A teenager mistook his father for a thief and slashed him to death with a machete at the door of their home, the Daily Nation newspaper reported.

No dough

Tel Aviv (Reuter) — Some Israeli bakeries are refusing to make sufganiot — traditional jam-filled, deep-fried doughnuts — for the Jewish Hanukka festival because the Government has fixed maximum prices they can charge.

TENDERS WILL BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES BR, WAITING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 3AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, 30TH DECEMBER 1986, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR THE GLASSGOW AGENCY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON MONDAY, 29TH DECEMBER 1986.

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £600,000,000

2½ per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2024

DEPOSIT WITH TENDER: £30.00 per cent

On Tuesday, 16th February 1987

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 17TH JANUARY AND 17TH JULY

1. Application has been made to the Council of the Bank of England for the issue of £600,000,000 of 2½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of the Treasury Management Act 1970 (Section 4(1)).

2. THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorized to receive tenders for the issue of the Stock.

3. The amount of any tender on the Stock will be a charge on the Reserve Fund of the Bank, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

4. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England at the Bank of England, and will be available in multiples of any sum payable by instalments in accordance with the Treasury Management Act 1970 (Section 4(1)).

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114. The

SPECTRUM

Dissidents who count the days

Vladimir Filippov (right) is a prisoner in a Soviet labour camp because he is a practising Christian. While the West celebrates Andrei Sakharov's freedom, Caroline Moorehead reports on the hundreds who watch and wait



The news last week that the Soviet Union had ended the internal exile of its best-known dissident, Dr Andrei Sakharov, and had freed another dissident, Mustafa Dzheimilov, from a Siberian labour camp has raised hopes among human rights defenders everywhere that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's breeze of change is gathering force.

Yet Moscow's dwindling band of activists still at liberty are encouraged less by these headline-grabbing gestures than by almost imperceptible internal events: a television programme with a serious discussion about emigration; articles in newspapers critical of government policies; permission for a previously banned poet to give a public recital; the appointment of a controversial, non-party member to the editorship of *Novy Mir*.

They need all the encouragement they can glean from these small signs. In the middle and late Seventies with *demokratia* in the air and Helsinki's people's minds, human rights groups flourished briefly in the main cities of the Soviet Union, founded by people who were particularly brave, and others who reasoned that to support them was morally right. Not one group has effectively survived.

incarceration and drugging of political prisoners in psychiatric wards — many diagnosed as having "atypical schizophrenia", a particular Soviet variation displaying no visible symptoms — has dissolved of its eight founders, six have served camp sentences, one is in exile, and one still in labour camp.

The five unofficial Helsinki monitoring groups have all been broken up; 16 members are still in prison or psychiatric hospital. Vladimir Albrekt, the mathematician who became an underground crusading lawyer for the Moscow dissidents, has recently been resentenced, while still in a camp, to a second term for "malicious hooliganism", having reportedly refused to recant. Aged 50, he is ill and has lost 20 kilos. He has also been severely beaten.

Dissidents belong to no single cause or movement; their contacts are not so close nor their networks so efficient as those of the refuseniks, who are far easier to meet in Moscow. The dissident movement is by definition a very difficult animal. The refuseniks want only to leave, and because they are in constant touch with the West, and many speak English, their troubles are widely known. The campaigners for human rights — the freedom to publish, to meet, to move around, to practise their religion, to criticize — seek reform from within. They look for support at home and, fragmented and unsure, are easily overlooked.

to overflowing and Soviet ones stood warily in the hallway outside. "Between 1979 and 1982," he says, "we published 200 documents on all conceivable rights." But in September 1982, the Moscow group closed. "Too many of the younger, newer people were being arrested. We had to stop them joining. It had become too dangerous."

had the equipment and were willing to pay all costs, but for three years they could not get the permission to accept them, even for the few weeks that surgery would take. "It was," says Meiman, a gentle and distinguished man of 75, "a sort of murder."

There's a lot of waste in a Karung. Being a water snake, it is a rather slender creature. As a result, cutting up its skin to make Filofaxes leaves an awkward and useless edge. Karung Filofaxes therefore cost £200 and upwards.

Karung: find it in your Filofax

This does not worry David Collischon, an affable 49-year-old. If he chose to make Filofaxes out of sharkskin with ostrich inserts he could sell them. After all, Steven Spielberg has a Filofax as do Brooke Shields and Mark Thatcher. Woody Allen has 20 and it was his former girlfriend Diane Keaton who thought of the idea for the change holder insert. Meanwhile in every London bistro the little leather files sit on lunch-time tables.

Thus was established a curious little market niche among the clergy and the military. Both professions seemed to feel the need for a small, loose-leaf filing system with plenty of handy inserts like Church Family Records or Troop Commander's Bible. Back in 1959, Collischon had bought one of the filing systems at Chisholm's in Kingsway, the only London supplier, and wondered why they were not more widely available. Later he became a wholesaler as a sideline to his full-time job and then in 1980 was offered the company by the then owner, Joe Rider.

EVERY PENNY HELPS Do you know what it is like to be really cold, with no way to get warm and nobody to turn to? We know. Friends of the Elderly have been helping the old and lonely for over eighty years. Every penny helps at such stark moments. These are proud old people who want to stay in their own homes despite everything. Please be a friend and send a donation — today. You can be sure it will be used efficiently to provide for the old and needy, wherever they are. Friends of the Elderly can only cope with a fraction of these sad cases. With your help we can do so much more to make old age a happy and dignified time — but we urgently need the funds. Please send donations to: The General Secretary, Friends of the Elderly (Dept. 42, Ebury Street, LONDON SW1W 0LZ. Registered charity number: 220064 OF THE ELDERLY. We also run eleven residential homes for the elderly.

His belief was that the portable filing system idea could be widely marketed as a Filofax associate has sold 30,000 copies. Competitors are emerging all the time, the most powerful being Harper House in Los Angeles. At present, Collischon occupies a tiny factory and office complex on the far side of Barkingside in Essex. To feed demand and exploit Collischon's ideas the company will have to grow bigger quickly. Yet it must also retain its smooth, up-market image as well as the vast range of inserts. It is these attributes which keeps the Filofax Fraternity — a club formed in the United States — obsessed and spending. Collischon seems genuinely bemused by the company's success. "I bought it thinking it would be a nice little hobby. Perhaps I could expand its business sales. But there's no way you can say to yourself I think I'll start a cult."

reckoned without the wave of organisation chic that was to sweep the market. In the 1980s it suddenly became fashionable to be efficient. Odd bits of office gimmickry swamped the shops. Filofax, having been rejected by Harrods' stationery department, found its way into small leather goods and was instantly fallen upon by suppliers and Knightsbridge dames.

Last year the company turned over £5 million and is now planning to go public. The reasons are obvious enough — expansion while the Filofax name is still on top of the market. Exports now account for one third of turnover and a new sales force, taken on 18 months ago, has spread the gospel all over England. Previously it was thought inconceivable that anybody in Bolton would spend £40 plus on a hand-made leather file.

On the table at which he speaks are the latest variations — a Zandra Rhodes Filofax, a whimsical Filofax and, yes, a sharkskin Filofax with ostrich inserts. Bryan Appleyard © Times Newspapers Ltd 1986

The card that saves

Christmas greetings may be rescuing a peasant economy in distant Nepal

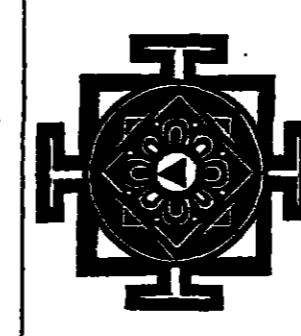


Laxmi Shobha is disabled, not badly, but enough to make working with the other women in the fields at the foot of the Himalayas too onerous. There was a time when her only prospect was to remain at home, dependent on the charity of her ageing parents. Now she has a job. She may have made one of the Christmas cards on your mantelpiece.

depreations of middlemen and moneylenders forced many to abandon their craft. Then the introduction of machine-made paper from India satisfied demand.

The greetings card factory, started by Unicef in 1981 in the ancient town of Bhaktapur to the east of Kathmandu, exported eight million rupees (about £250,000) worth of hand-made cards and paper this year. The project grew out of a set of problems. In a country which was already more than 90 per cent dependent upon a fragile agriculture, two of the country's traditional industries had been in decline for a generation and were threatened with extinction. Papermaking had been one of the proudest of traditional Nepalese crafts since the 11th century. The technique had changed little until the Chinese Cultural Revolution in 1969, when many of the monasteries which had bought the paper — they used it for copying scriptures — were closed and the papermakers' market disappeared almost overnight. At first the papermakers persisted in the hope of finding new markets but the

advantages of reviving the two industries in a card printing project. The result has been not only revitalization of the old crafts but the creation of organizational skills among the communities which have changed other aspects of life in the remote uplands. The *lokta* gatherers who took advantage of low-cost credit and conservation training have used their new organisational skills and profits to build clean-water drinking systems in a country where only 11 per cent of the population has access to uncontaminated water. The rural papermakers have used their profits to build



Nepal change: Laxmi Shobha and one of the cards that changed the lives of thousands

outlying child-care centres, a community health system and schools. They have also established water systems and plantations for wood fuel.

"The factory has changed my life," said Laxmi, who has worked in the paper-folding room since the factory opened. "Now I no longer live with my parents. I have married one of the printers here and we have just built our own house with a loan from the factory's staff credit fund." Under its new general manager, Bishnu Shrestha, a young Nepali who trained in the British and German printing industries, the factory has recently expanded its capacity from 140,000 to 200,000 cards a year. The cards produced on the factory's mottled ivory coloured paper feature traditional Nepalese designs. They have no greeting inside so they can be used all year round. But the message of self-determination each one carries needs no words. Paul Vallely Bhaktapur Craft Printers cards are available at Unicef, 1 Kings Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FP (Tel. 0245 84622)

And goodbye from him ...

John Timpson is leaving his Today hot-seat on Christmas Eve. Libby Purves says her farewells

On Christmas Eve, for the last time, the fruitfully authoritative tones of John Timpson will growl "A very good morning to you", and then vanish forever from our sleepy grey dawns. It is, in a modest way, the end of an era in British radio.

John's tenure has not even been continuous: during the disastrous experiment of the mid-Seventies when half the programme came from Manchester, half from London, and it was further split into short sections by a dreadful melée called "Up To The Hour", John Timpson was right out of it all for nearly two years, trying his luck at television with the revived *Tonight* programme.

John stirred his tea placidly. "Ah yes," he said. "They'll be dancing in the streets in Chorleywood." Pause. "It'll be the veleta, mind you, but they'll be dancing." All that is over now. Chorleywood is over, too: after 20 years, John and his wife Pat are moving back to Norfolk, and he will have a column in the paper he started his career on, the *Eastern Daily Press*. The Chorleywood house is sold, and for his last month on *Today* John has had an uneasy half-bachelor existence, staying in an hotel behind Broadcasting House and eating lonely suppers under the stark lights and tinsel garlands of the BBC canteen. I

asked him why, really why, he was off. "Had enough of getting up. Pat's had enough of my getting up. Just had enough." He is only 58, but *Today* takes its toll physically even on a three-day cycle. You get up very early, you drink gallons of nasty coffee, you have a whisky and a marmite sandwich at 9 am to revive you. Brian Redhead once said that if a normal person felt the way we felt by 10 every morning, he would see a doctor immediately. "Quit while you're winning," I say. "Timpson observes. "Mind you, I've said that once too often. The other day, at some gathering, I said it and some young man got up and said, 'What makes you think you're winning?' You should have gone years ago." And he laughed, a short bark of self-mockery. It is a sound I shall miss in the mornings.

John Timpson: lonely dinners under BBC canteen lights. idly. "Ah yes," he said. "They'll be dancing in the streets in Chorleywood." Pause. "It'll be the veleta, mind you, but they'll be dancing." All that is over now. Chorleywood is over, too: after 20 years, John and his wife Pat are moving back to Norfolk, and he will have a column in the paper he started his career on, the *Eastern Daily Press*. The Chorleywood house is sold, and for his last month on *Today* John has had an uneasy half-bachelor existence, staying in an hotel behind Broadcasting House and eating lonely suppers under the stark lights and tinsel garlands of the BBC canteen. I

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1137. Includes a crossword grid and a list of clues for across and down words.



John Timpson: lonely dinners under BBC canteen lights

MONDAY PAGE

Why the credit card deck is stacked

How is it possible for people to run up so much debt so quickly? Lee Rodwell went shopping for high street credit and collected £8,000 worth of it with amazing ease. Trouble is, she could never pay it all back



same, there were surprising differences in the amount of credit allocated to me. Some companies invited me to apply for a particular amount and presumably bore my request in mind when they set the credit limit. Others simply told me how much credit I could have.

Tomorrow, if I wished, I could go on a Christmas spending spree to the tune of nearly £8,000. I have not had a win on the pools or cleaned up on the Stock Market. I have acquired a clutch of credit cards, most of them from shops.

How to Cope With Credit and Deal with Debt. She says: "I am concerned about the way credit is pushed at customers - one chain employs hostesses whose sole job is to open credit accounts for people. They are on a low basic salary and get commission for each account.

With the Mothercare Storecard, which can also be used at any of the Storehouse group of companies - British Home Stores, Habitat, Richards and Heals - I was told that my limit was £600. Yet, with far less information to go on, Fenwick felt I was good for £1,000.

Mr Macdonald feels that that the multiple use of credit cards is not a big problem at present. But he adds: "If the National Credit Register does not develop, then I am not sure I would have such a relaxed and sanguine attitude."

Despite calls for review, the pressures have increased for people to have multiple cards

The application forms for some of the cards ask for a list of regular outgoing payments such as mortgages. They all ask for a list of other credit cards held. But shoppers can apply for a batch of new cards all at the same time, as I did, so there is no way of knowing for certain whether an applicant is likely to get too far into debt.

Only one company wanted the name of my accountants. The rest just took my word for it

I asked for £1,500 at Marks and Spencer and got it. My local department store, Owen Owen gave me the £1,000 I specified, as did Harrods and Renault (you can use their Custom Card for petrol, accessories, parts, servicing and car rental at any Renault dealer displaying the Renault Custom sign).

Three years ago the National Consumer Council called for a review of multiple credit card use, pointing out that the brake on excessive spending provided by a card's limit was effectively removed when people were issued with several cards. Yet since then, the pressures have increased for people to have multiple cards.

When a potential client fills in the questionnaire on an application form, each "good" or "bad" answer is given a score. The total score enables a company to assess the "probable" payment performance. The company may also check with a credit reference agency to see if the potential client has been a bad payer in the past, or if he or she already uses store credit cards.

Given that the details asked for on all the forms were much the same, there were surprising differences in the amount of credit allocated to me. Some companies invited me to apply for a particular amount and presumably bore my request in mind when they set the credit limit.

But Harvey Nichols decided £1,000 credit was too high and set the limit at £750, while Laura Ashley knocked it down even further to £600. Even so, I was able to add eight cards to my existing Access card, bringing the total amount of credit available to me to £7,940. Tempting, to say the least.

A star possessed of high anxiety

The publicity officer at the Haymarket Theatre in Leicester, where Natasha Richardson is performing in High Society, has obviously got her hands full. "Whatever you do, don't show Natasha that you've got a copy of the programme. She can't bear what it says about her."

With High Society about to reach London, upwardly mobile Natasha Richardson is set to take another step on the ladder

After that she was Helena in the Hyde Park production of Midsummer Night's Dream and Ophelia in Hamlet at the Young Vic. Her first break came in 1985. "My first big part was playing Nina in Charles Sturridge's production of The Seagull. Nina is one of the best parts for young actresses. It was wonderful because when it was re-cast my mother got the main female lead, and I was able to act with her alongside John Hurt. Working with Charles Sturridge (he directed Brideshead Revisited) and people of the calibre of John Hurt and my Mother was incredibly, what's the word...?"



Natasha Richardson: yes, connections tend to open doors

important things to get right, apart from the singing and dancing of course, is the American accent. I can't bear phoney American accents. All her life she has been aware of being better-connected than most, and despite her obvious talent, makes no attempt to deny the advantages this has given her.

Twins need not be double trouble

From Joan Parkes, Ockman Lane, Rye, East Sussex.

TALKBACK

I refer to Josephine Fairley's Twinning Ways (Wednesday Page, December 10). My twins were born at home in 1955. I had a very easy labour - three hours in all - and they were born at 12.30 and 12.40 am weighing six pounds each. Their sister was 16 months old, and I had two other daughters aged 8 and 12. I also had a job, working for a GP and living in a flat over the surgery.

one or two children's stories, and to experience great pleasure in their babyhood. From Hilary M. Macklin, Buckhaven, Fife. There is a perfectly good reason for the Army's reluctance to allow its female officers to have children and keep their jobs (Maternity and the Military, Monday Page, December 15). The Army is there to defend the country in the event of war. That defence would surely be terribly impaired if some of our officers were in a maternity ward, holding babies in their arms.

Farming out the family

I enjoyed the era of community child-care since, as everyone knows, you can take a child anywhere as long as it's out. The brat who, at home, eats bananas with tomato ketchup and hangs his clothes on the floor turns into little Prince Charming as soon as he is off-loaded on to somebody else. I always found it incredible, when collecting a child of mine from a neighbour, to learn that he used the grape-scoopers with aplomb and insisted on doing his homework.

getting restless and peked in desk drawers and bedside cupboards. Nevertheless, the child-go-round schemes remain an indispensable aid to sane motherhood and I hope that, now I am qualified to take part in the mother-go-round arrangement, sanity will continue to prevail. My hopes of this are high since elderly adults, like small children, are much nicer to have around when released from the bosom of their immediate family.



PENNY PERRICK

As the years roll by, people tend to tell the same stories over and over again. This is tiresome for an audience that is always in attendance since it already knows the punchlines. Yet aged parents, like provincial comedians, can find love and appreciation wherever they go, as long as they are sent out on a permanent tour.

Is there anybody in there?

My telephone answering machine threw a fit the other day, malevolently blowing raspberries and refusing to turn itself off. The painter, whom I had left slap-happy and singing at the top of a step ladder, was reduced to a state of near-speechless fury by this ear-splitting version of the Chinese water torture. The simple expedient of hitting the "off" switch did not occur to him.

United States, answering machines are an essential. Many people leave them permanently switched on to screen out unwanted callers, cutting in only if they want a "real" conversation. When Mark Thatcher's engagement to Texan car dealer's daughter Diane Bergdorf was announced, his future in-laws used the family machine to leave a message recorded by a famous actor - preferably one with a sexy voice.

When I got myself wired up, my family was deeply scornful. My father, who has only recently accepted the telephone as a necessary evil, left messages so clipped and businesslike I did not recognize him. Everyone else, who took its presence as a personal affront, flatly refused to use it on the assumption that I was simply too lazy to answer myself. I confess to using it occasionally in the bath - no more soggy telephone directories and frozen feet - or at the children's teatime, when the noise reaches levels unacceptable to any Factory Inspectorate.

SALE advertisement for MCAFFEE shoes, featuring images of various shoe styles and prices.



THE TIMES DIARY

Greetings on the House

After my revelations about the "Ulster Says Noel" festive mis-

In the red

Jeffrey Archer's resignation as Tory vice-chairman is proving expensive to the host of Conservative associations...

On the list

Peter Walker and his PPS, Stephen Dorrell, are employing curious tactics to keep the Young Conservatives wet.

Challenge

The usually dynamic Richard Branson will be remarkably still in the New Year. Following the example of the late Lord Shinwell...

BARRY FANTONI



"Not another Alliance split..."

Hope abandoned

Father Michael Winter, a prominent member of the Movement for the Ordination of Married Men...

Flying high

Lebanese embassy officials, who have represented Syrian interests in London since the post-Hindawi expulsion...

Head start

A little-known bust of the late Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, has been given a new and more secure home...

A master plan for planning

by Geoffrey Rippon

Planning inquiries are falling into disrepute. The protracted agony of the Sizewell inquiry - the report is now reaching ministers four years after it began - must never be repeated.

Zeal for reform has gathered momentum. The House of Commons select committee on the environment concluded that planning delays do severe damage to the economy.

Here are ten proposals for clearing the logjam.

1. A new Planning Act to consolidate and amend present legislation, orders, regulations and government circulars...

2. The wide consensus that the time has come to end not only structure plans but also all other statutory plans should be headed.

3. It would be a cardinal principle of the new Act that a planning authority must approve an application unless it would do demonstrable environmental damage.

4. I support Lord Denning's plan for three-person planning tribunals in place of the present planning inspectors.

5. The number of planning appeals climbs steadily each year. The Commons select committee proposal for the award of costs as a penalty is a good one...

6. Computerization of the planning process is long overdue.

7. The number of planning appeals climbs steadily each year. The Commons select committee proposal for the award of costs as a penalty is a good one...

8. I support Lord Denning's plan for three-person planning tribunals in place of the present planning inspectors.

9. The remedies for the mischiefs that have emerged over the last 40 years have been analysed in detail over and over again.

10. The inordinate duration of the applications each year, some 86 per cent are eventually approved, but only two thirds are determined within the eight weeks required by statute.

- Annual white papers would set out the government's current planning policies (such as the Budget sets out fiscal policies), and spell out measures to make land available for housing, employment and other purposes.
The wide consensus that the time has come to end not only structure plans but also all other statutory plans should be headed.
It would be a cardinal principle of the new Act that a planning authority must approve an application unless it would do demonstrable environmental damage.

small number of major inquiries like Sizewell has brought planning into disrepute. Three changes would help: prior publication by the government of policy guidelines; a statutory timetable for preliminary proceedings and robust statutory powers for a "commissioner" - an inspector with a High Court judge's powers to maintain the momentum of the proceedings.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



The last dig of winter - of a peepshow that should never resume

Let the moors keep their grisly secrets

serious offence for any policeman ever to appear on television. But all the foregoing still leaves out the most important - the only important - lesson to be learnt from this chilling series of official blunders.

Then there is the legal side of the business. Opinions have been solemnly canvassed as to what would or should follow, as far as the law is concerned, if bodies were to be found. Could the two convicted murderers be charged with further crimes and, if convicted, sentenced to life imprisonment?

This shoddy Grand Guignol will not find so much as the bone of a little finger unless Flood, gazing up at the fleets of helicopters taking pictures of him, should stumble and fall into a hole that turns out to be a grave.

Michael Heseltine on the need to convince each new generation of the efficacy of deterrence

Countering CND the peaceful way

There is nothing new about the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Its slogans and banners are hardly distinguishable from those of the 1930s.

one would claim that this book is light bedtime reading. But for those who want to understand the meaning behind left-wing pacifist political language, it has invaluable breadth and depth.

at one point Mercer quotes Marshall Shaposhnikov's revealing paraphrase of Clausewitz: "If war is the continuation of politics by other means, then it is also true that peace, that is politics, is the continuation of war by other means."

CND's particular appeal is based on its supposed raising of "the peace issue". Yet peace is not at issue. We are at peace. Indeed, Western Europe is at peace today precisely because for 40 years we have taken no risks with our security.

calculating that gains can be made by military means. The closer I, as a minister, came to the world power struggle, the more I detected the immense care with which the superpowers conduct themselves wherever serious danger of escalation exists.

Yet credible deterrence also demands a broad equivalence of weapon systems and striking power. That match must involve nuclear as well as conventional capability. Labour or Liberal arguments that there is another way are either naive or founded on an ultimate but disguised reliance on American protection which is both deceitful and opportunistic.

That is not to say that arms control or limitation should not be pursued; it should. Both sides of the superpower confrontation are equipped on a scale beyond any rational requirements. But such are the understandable suspicions of those who negotiate arms control arrangements that even balanced reductions have proved beyond political skill.

In these negotiations there is one characteristic of the western democracies which must always be remembered. Governments

charity, and sickening though I found the picture in which a relative of one of the Moors victims was brandishing a knife and looting to use it on Myra Hindley, it would be pointless, as well as intolerably presumptuous, for me to rebuke him for such feelings.

I am emphatically of the opinion that whatever pleas there were from the relatives, for the moors to be dug over, with or without Miss Hindley in attendance, should have been kindly but firmly denied.

Whatever happens, or should happen, to Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, their victims can gain nothing from it. So much is obvious; less obvious but no less true is that the victims' families cannot gain by it either.

The Camp David agreement to constrain "Star Wars" within the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty was a significant landmark on which the West should stand.

The author, Conservative MP for Henley, was Defence Secretary, 1982-85. Peace of the Dead is published by Policy Research Publications, 35 Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1.

Michael Meadowcroft Act of faith for the Alliance

Christmas cheer: Owen and Steel will, I hope, be a pleasant family occasion, but I doubt that it will be entirely non-political.

Political commentators have taken a rather blinkered view of the opinion polls in recent months. Feed the raw figures into the computer and it will produce a prediction of an immediate election result.

The received truth is that Liberals do better with the Tories in office. This certainly reflects the Liberals' long-standing view of the Conservatives as our enemy and Labour as our competitor.

The paradox of Labour's "all power or no power" stance is that it opens up Labour seats to Alliance attack. The Alliance needs to elbow Labour out of the way in order to take on the Conservatives far more comprehensively than Labour's narrow appeal ever can.

It is not just a question of different words on leaflets or on television but an awareness that to appeal to that large constituency that is at one and the same time progressive but suspicious of extremes requires a radicalism that both challenges and reassures.

There is no great public fondness for this government, nor confidence in its ability to show compassion for the increasing number of people in need.

It is this fact, plus the poll evidence for the belief that Labour will not win, that gives the Alliance its great opportunity.

The Alliance leadership needs to focus its appeal far better if this opportunity is to be grasped.

The author is Liberal MP for Leeds West.

moreover... Miles Kington All you need at Christmas

You might imagine that everything is closed on Christmas Day, making it impossible to shop or get help with urgent Christmas problems.

Last Minute Shopping. You wake up on Christmas Day and suddenly remember that you haven't got a present for your wife, who is coming to lunch.

Board Game Disputes. There is always some point on Christmas Day when people come to blows over the rules of some new board game.

Lack of Batteries. The biggest Christmas problem of all, whether you are opening a new model car or simply trying to cast some illumination on your Christmas crib.

Unwanted Supermarket Trolleys. While you are enjoying your warm, family Christmas, spare a thought for supermarket trolleys, many of whom have to spend the holiday period out in the open, unwanted and homeless.

Any Other Problem. Some problems on Christmas Day seem just too horrendous for any solution. Let us say, for instance, that you have been wandering the streets on Christmas morning looking for wrapping paper for a sack of potatoes.

Let us say, for instance, that you have been wandering the streets on Christmas morning looking for wrapping paper for a sack of potatoes. You go into a pub to drown your worries and stay there so long you're late for lunch. On your way home you realize you've left the potatoes in the pub, which is now shut. What do you do? Well all you can do is turn the whole experience into a new board game called Christmas Scapes so that you can make a fortune next year and buy your wife a whole potato field for Christmas.



COURT CIRCULAR

December 21: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended the... Miss Nona Mitchell was in attendance.

Princess Anne will attend the Scottish Sportswomen of the Year 1986 dinner at the Albany Hotel, Glasgow, on January 27.

Church news

Appointments: The Rev M Sedgwick, Vicar, Albion, diocese of Newcastle...

Resignations and retirements

The Rev W B Gifford, Vicar, St Andrew, diocese of Newcastle...

Other appointments

The Rev J J Cawthra, Vicar, St Andrew, diocese of Newcastle...

Clifford Longley Liberation and the new right

The recent Anglican essay on the welfare state, Not Just for the Poor, was described as a piece of theological underpinning for the bruised but not yet beaten post-war consensus on social policy in Britain.



Miss Samantha Carroll, of the Edgbaston Tennis Club, in period dress, practises a shot in front of 8 Aampton Road, Edgbaston, where the game of lawn tennis began more than 120 years ago (Photograph: Philip Dunn).

Birthplace of lawn tennis up for sale

John McEave and Boris Becker might not know it, but No 8 Aampton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, is recognized as the birthplace of lawn tennis (Craig Seton writes).

It was there, more than 120 years ago, that the seeds of the modern Wimbledon game were sown.

OBITUARY

SIR HARRY PLATT, BT Grand Old Man of British orthopaedics

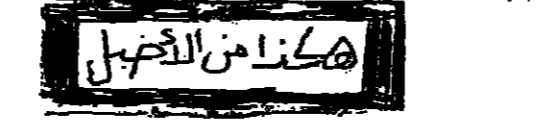
Sir Harry Platt, Bt, FRCS, Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in the University of Manchester and Past President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, died on December 20, at the age of 100.

THE REV PROFESSOR GORDON RUPP

The Rev Professor Gordon Rupp, DD, FBA, died on December 19, he was 76. A Church historian of marked originality, whose most notable works were The Old Reformation and the New (1967), Patterns of Reformation (1969), in which he moved away from Luther into the Anabaptists and radical Reformation; Just Men (1977) and Thomas More (1978).

University news

Wales: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES: Dr J. G. Jones, artistic director at the university...



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

And the name of God, which... BIRTHS: ALLEN - On December 4th... MARRIAGES: WILLIAMSON-COBLEY... DEATHS: WROCK - On December 19th...

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE... David Rundle, Director, British Institute, Langarino, Guiscardo, 00125, Florence.

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Pilgrims bound for London

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

About 10,000 young men and women from all over Europe are expected to cross the Channel bound for London, just after Christmas, to take part in a five-day religious event.

To handle what the organizers claim as the largest mass crossing since Dunkirk, some ferry companies will be putting on extra ships. The focus of the week will be daily prayer services in London's three most important church buildings.

FOR SALE

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FOR SALE

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FOR SALE

FLATSHARE... 100 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 5JW.

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CHAPPELL OF BOND ST... New Piano... 50 NEWINGTON GREEN, LONDON W11 4JF.

FOR SALE

MARKSON PIANOS... 946 Finchley Road, London NW11 6AA.

FOR SALE

FLATSHARE... 100 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 5JW.

Science report: Psychology aid for cancer patients

By Peter Brock

The idea of using psychological preparation to help people who have to undergo surgery is fairly recent, but its importance has been recognized, particularly among women who have to undergo mastectomy.

Sale room: \$220,000 for Einstein letter about A-bomb

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A two-page letter from Albert Einstein to President Dwight D. Eisenhower explaining the theoretical possibility of making an atomic bomb was sold for \$220,000 (estimate \$60,000 to \$80,000), or £151,700, at Christie's in New York on Friday.

It is the highest auction price paid for a 20th-century letter. The purchaser was Malcolm Forbes, proprietor of Forbes Magazine who has a collection of presidential memorabilia as well as owning the log of the US pilot who dropped the bomb on Hiroshima.

Cancer: Together we can beat it

We find our own kind of all research into the prevention and cure of cancer in the UK.

Help us by sending a donation or make a legacy to: Cancer Research Campaign, 2 Canine House Terrace, Dept. TT 22/2, London SW17 6AR.

FOR SALE

FIRST quality wood carpets... 100 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 5JW.

FOR SALE

WORLD WIDE CHEAPIES... 100 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 5JW.

FOR SALE

WINTER SPORTS... 100 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 5JW.

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To Place Your Classified Advertisement. Please telephone the appropriate number listed below between 9am and 6pm. Monday to Friday, or between 9.30am and 1.00pm on Saturdays.

Libyans lose 400 claims, Chad

Libyans lose 400 claims, Chad. Tripoli (AP) - The... Chad Government...

DTI stays silent on insider inquiry. The Department of Trade and Industry continued to stonewall yesterday about the progress and origins of the unprecedented investigation now underway into alleged leaks of market-moving information by some civil servants.

Engineers yes to aircraft society merger. Two more of the professional engineering institutions are to merge after approval by a big majority of members of the Royal Aeronautical Society and the smaller Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers and Technologists.

Britain in final EEC fight to save struggling shipbuilders. The fate of struggling state-owned British Shipbuilders rests largely on a final attempt being made by the British Government in Brussels today to win large increases in public subsidies for European shipyards.

RESULTS. TODAY - Interims: Amalgamated Financial Investments, Baileys, Dominion International, G M Firth Holdings, Porter Chadburn, Radiant Metal. Finals: Nash Industries. TOMORROW - Interims: Anchor International Fund, Bermuda International Bond Fund (2nd quarter), Berisford Group, Forminster, A Monk, Frontprint Holdings, Sterling Industries. Finals: none announced. WEDNESDAY - Interims: none announced. Finals: none announced.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET (Change on week). FT 30 Share 1272.1 (-8.3). FT-SE 100 1632.2 (+2.4). Bargains 31645 (30340). USM (Datastream) 128.86 (-0.58). THE POUND (Change on week). US Dollar 1.4325 (+0.0040). W German mark 2.8729 (-0.0084). Trade-weighted 68.6 (-0.1).

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Two more bright spots for the Government. Firmer oil prices expected today. By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent. Oil prices are likely to be firmer today despite Iraq's refusal to abide by the production cutbacks agreed by ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

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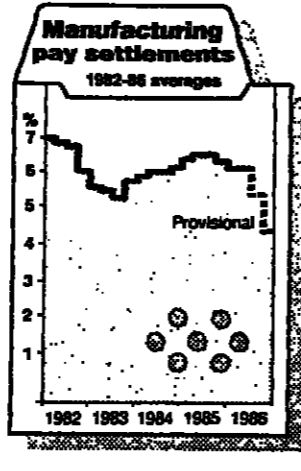
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Lowest settlements for a decade

Wage rises fall to 4.6%

Wage rises for manufacturing industry have fallen to 4.6 per cent - the lowest for a decade - the Confederation of British Industry said today. These latest results from the CBI's data bank on pay give some Christmas cheer for the Government and indicate that the employers' leaders campaign against high pay settlements may be succeeding. The CBI said the 4.6 per cent average for the fourth quarter of this year marked a continuation of the pronounced downward movement in settlements that began in the third quarter, when the average was 5.6 per cent. It compares with 6.1 per cent for the first two quarters of the year.



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Clayton Yeutter: sees time running against the Reagan initiative for US leadership

Yeutter hint of new US economics package

President Reagan is preparing comprehensive new legislation to restore US leadership in the international economic arena. Details of the programme were finalized at a White House meeting last week but the initiative will not be announced until the President's State of the Union message next month, according to Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative. He said in an interview with The Times that Mr Reagan and his advisers see their political difficulties and rapidly diminishing time in office as blocks to the President's goal of leaving the world "a lasting economic legacy."

On trade of the accessions of Spain and Portugal into the European Economic Community. There is no solution in sight at, according to Mr Yeutter, who said it is up to Europe to make the next move. The US will begin drawing up retaliatory measures, affecting as much as \$400 million (£283.7 million) in

OECD joins in talk of tax cuts

By David Smith. Economics Correspondent. The Chancellor's attempt to play down expectations of tax cuts has failed to convince the forecasters. There is virtual unanimity among City and other forecasters that there will be a cut in the basic rate of income tax of 2p or more in the Budget.

Yeutter hint of new US economics package. President Reagan is preparing comprehensive new legislation to restore US leadership in the international economic arena.



Nigel Lawson: likes to leave some surprises

Simulations in Government Economic Service Working Paper No. 90 suggest that a £3 billion increase in public spending boosts the public sector borrowing requirement by only £1.1 billion in the first year. In other words, nearly 50p of every pound in additional expenditure can be used again. The story does not end here. A cut in income tax also generates feedback effects, most directly through higher indirect tax receipts.

No rush, says Gatt after 8-week talks

The new Uruguay round of trade negotiations, the eighth and most ambitious in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's history, has not been a promising start. Delegates from 30 main trading nations, meeting since October 27, failed to make the December 19 deadline, as scheduled at the Punta Del Este conference in September, so that negotiations proper could start early next year.

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Call to scrap Companies Act formalities

The charade of meaningless meetings for private companies could end if many formalities and requirements under the Companies Act were scrapped, the Institute of Directors said yesterday. At the same time, it said, protective measures could be built in to the Act.

End ritual meetings, says IoD

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News Securities B.V. advertisement. Includes logo, text: 'This announcement appears as a matter of record only.', 'USS\$100,000,000 Syndicated Revolving Loan Facility', 'The News Corporation Limited and its major subsidiary companies', 'Westpac Banking Corporation', 'December, 1986'.

ANALYSIS

North Sea suppliers face big shake-out

With the oil price languishing at a level so low as to render most North Sea ventures uneconomic, concern is growing for Britain's offshore construction and supply industry.

The job losses and receiverships to make the headlines so far may be only the beginning of a more fundamental shake-out among Britain's North Sea supply companies.

Dr Colin Phipps, chairman of Brindec, the association of British independent exploration companies, believes that in 12 months we shall lose 50 per cent of our infrastructure.

He said: "There is enough maintenance and ordinary supply work for 50 per cent of our offshore capacity and maintenance requirements tend to increase as time goes by. But what the industry needs is new construction orders. New business puts the cream on it."

Much has been made of the sufferings of the oil companies which see their earnings and assets diminish with every dollar fall in the oil price. However, exploration spending for them is discretionary, and development spending can be delayed.

It is comparatively easy for them to cut back on this discretionary expenditure, helping to reduce the adverse effect on their cash flow, although at some cost to employment of the highly-skilled geologists and geophysicists in their exploration departments.

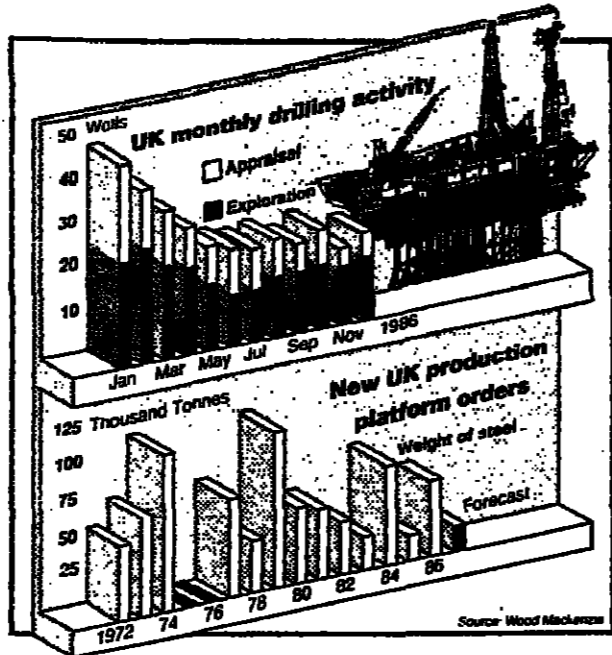
It is the service companies which really suffer from the fall in the oil price. Many of the construction yards, platform and module builders have already trimmed back in response to the drop in orders because of the low oil price. But their remaining overheads are not discretionary, and they need orders to survive.

As the oil price fall begins to cut into exploration budgets, the first to feel the draught are the companies involved in drilling. The worst effects have been felt by the rig owners, supply boat owners and the diving and support services.

The impact on the development side takes longer to feed through. Indeed, the offshore contractors are still fulfilling orders dating to the 1984 offshore construction boom.

But oil prices are now too low to justify developing most new North Sea oil fields, and the platform and module building yards and all the support industries will find life hard as their orders are completed during 1987.

The work will not dry up



Whitehall accused of complacency

As the speaker said to the American offshore oil industry: "Stay alive in '85, quick fix for '86, chapter eleven in '87." His words seem to have more relevance for the UK offshore industry.

It has been living with a low oil price for nearly a year but its corrosive effect on the oil service industry has been progressive rather than instantaneous. Drilling felt the draught first. But, if low prices persist as the contractors finish their current workload, all the offshore service companies will be facing a bleak future.

The Government recognizes that there is a problem, as shown by recent concessions on advance petroleum revenue tax. Dr Colin Phipps, chairman of Brindec, calls this "just a

piece of clever public relations." Enterprise and Lasmo had been the only two members of Brindec to benefit. The other main beneficiaries had been British and the US companies.

The straggling small oil companies do not benefit at all, nor is there any guarantee that the money will be returned to the North Sea. Dr Phipps says: "The Government is remarkably complacent about what is going on. The Treasury is reluctant to give up any cash at all and the Department of Energy does not recognize the scale of the problem."

The worry is that the service industry will be damaged beyond repair. Britain is in danger of losing in a year what could take five years to rebuild.

ed by loosening the fiscal straitjacket. A similar pattern occurred at the beginning of the 1980s, when exploration activity slumped. Tax reforms in the 1983 budget again rescued the service industry.

There is now little on the taxation front for which the Government can be blamed, and little it can do. Exploration is allowed against petroleum revenue tax and new developments are uneconomic because of the low oil price not because of the tax system.

Only two factors will stimulate an increase in offshore activity - higher oil prices or subsidies of one sort or another for new development.

The world price of North Sea oil is still determined by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, despite its weak condition. The British Government could try to help in supporting prices by taking a more active role internationally, allying itself with Opec-type decisions, such as Norway has done.

Of more direct practical help would be the offer of subsidies. The simplest subsidy of all would be to allow the oil companies relief against PRT for development expenditure. This would ensure that more money was spent in the North Sea.

The difficulty here is that those with enough PRT would not necessarily be the most deserving cases. Such a measure would probably precipitate a reshuffle of tax-paying assets, such as occurred at the time exploration was allowed against PRT.

British Petroleum set the bandwagon rolling when it sold off units in its Forties field. Most asset sales since have had tax shelter considerations somewhere in the calculations.

To overcome this PRT could be put into a Government pool and used to offer direct subsidies to new developments. But like most direct subsidy schemes, it is likely to prove expensive, unfair and in the end to create more problems than it solves.

Britain has built up considerable expertise in developing oilfields in some of the most hostile environments in the world in the teeth of intense American competition. If the Government wants it to keep its foothold in the business, it may need to dig into its pocket to help it to survive until the oil price starts to pick up again

Carol Ferguson

US NOTEBOOK

Paying for five years of folly

From Maxwell Newton New York

The year is ending on a downbeat. It is not at all likely that the fourth quarter will produce any positive economic growth at all.

Meanwhile the over-leveraged American corporate sector faces a couple of years in which it will be difficult to reduce the fantastic leverage levels that have been built up.

Obviously, there will have to be a deleveraging of America after the folly of the past five years, folly that has been fed by the almost unbelievably lax policies of the Fed which have poured a gout of cash into the system.

There will have to be a return to traditional relationship between debt and equity. The reaction will take two main forms.

First there will be mass payoffs of labour and sales of divisions in order to improve the corporations' cash. After a time, the glut of divisions for sale will reduce the attraction of the route. The collapse of the Coca-Cola bottling industry - a farce - is indicative of the problems that are in the pipeline as corporations struggle to raise cash and remove loss-making or other difficult divisions from the consolidated balance sheet.

Secondly, there will have to be a reversion to stock issues. But these issues will be priced in a decidedly unfavourable environment, when major corporations are all vying for cash in the stock market to evade bankruptcy that will become more imminent as difficult profit-earning conditions combine with glut of new stock issues to raise prospective yields demanded by investors.

At the same time, the new tax law will make new corporate stock yields necessarily much higher, since there is no point in waiting for capital gains which will be taxed at the same rate as ordinary income.

Meanwhile, it is clear that many of the huge American corporations are in deep trouble. Massive layoffs by GM, AT&T and IBM point to a serious sickness, a lack of momentum, an inability to grow, that is afflicting some of the most powerful and prestigious of American corporations.

In this environment, the clear choice is fixed income paper of high quality. This means, for all practical purposes, Treasury paper and some municipal paper.

There are those - Henry Wotjyla and Nicolas Michas among them - who believe this story is going to end in a cataclysm.

I think it is possible the world's central bankers, led by the Fed, will pour so much cash into the system that a cataclysm will be avoided.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, and Dollar Spot Rates. Includes columns for Market rates, Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, and Dollar Spot Rates.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other Sterling rates for various countries and currencies, including Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, etc.

MONEY MARKETS

Table showing Money Markets, including Euro Money Deposits, Treasury Bills, and other financial instruments.

COMMENT

The baffling gap in industrial policy

In preparing the way for the Awacs contract last week, the Prime Minister made the apparently unchallengeable proposition that "defence requirements must be paramount. They will not be subordinated to any political expediency."

In doing so, however, Mrs Thatcher gave the impression to paranoid industrialists that the technical health and employment prospects of British industry, rather than being an end in themselves, were no more than a matter of political expediency, affecting the electoral prospects of a few MPs.

That was no doubt inadvertent. Yet there is a lacuna in the present Government's policy towards industry. The essence of the policy has, indeed, been a realization that government and industry do not go well together in this country. Hence, policy has centred - with varying success - on creating the right conditions for business and enterprise to thrive, while keeping Whitehall's grubby hands off the market.

The privatization programme, one of Mrs Thatcher's most successful initiatives, rests on the same proposition. It is now common ground that Whitehall is not good at running industries. Such healthy realism does not, however, obviate the need to improve the relations between industry and Whitehall. Nor does this presuppose a French or Japanese system of government organization and promotion of industry.

Defence procurement is a case in point. The cancellation of the Nimrod project has left people from abroad baffled. No other leading industrial country, it seems, would dump its home industry in such a way.

The Nimrod experience will be pored over in endless detail in committees. It seems likely that the original conception of the project and the way it was handled will be found wanting, rather than the final difficult decision to cancel. For that was an admission of past failure.

It is now widely agreed that cost-plus development is unsuitable for this sort of project. Behind this, however, must lie a greater practical understanding of Britain's diminished size in the military world. Major projects cannot hope to pay for themselves at economic cost on UK orders alone. If the government is to back a British project, it must from the first co-operate with private industry on the creation of an export product rather than one tailored in stupefying detail to British needs.

There is nothing new about co-operative Nato aircraft projects. But civil servants and service chiefs at the Ministry of Defence still do not see it as part of their business - and may,

indeed, consider it improper - to promote the commercial interests and profits of individual private firms. It seems clear that the Nimrod project, many of whose basic technical problems stem from the false economy of choosing an obsolete, unsuitable but cheaply available airframe, was not conceived as a world competitor. Thinking has improved since 1977, but not enough.

If the principal aim is to save money, it is usually cheaper to buy American or other imports offered at incremental cost without the full overhead burden. Even that should be worked out with industry in advance.

If projects need rethinking, so does ordering. The Westland crisis, which exposed fatuous Whitehall jealousies over responsibilities for different companies, stemmed from a sudden lack of British Government orders. The needs of industry were ignored in juggling with figures in the defence budget. That process is now damaging Britain's warship-building industry.

A more subtle, but equally devastating lack of Whitehall co-operation has effectively wrecked the British bus-building industry. The implications of bus deregulation were simply not properly worked out between the transport and industry departments. So bus builders found themselves devoid of orders and ill-prepared for the consequent demand for smaller chassis, most of which are now imported. Properly handled, this transition could have promoted the British bus industry.

Industrialists are also to blame for deficiencies in co-operation, in part because of their fears that Labour governments' idea of co-operation is control. Their distaste for working with competitors (not to mention trade unions) has also limited the potential of the detailed work of the National Economic Development Office. For many British firms dealing in world markets, the chap down the road is still a bigger enemy than competitors abroad.

Nonetheless, a concerted effort should be started within government to promote individual British firms as an integral part of many decisions. Better co-operation between departments would be a good start.

Over Christmas, Mrs Thatcher will be reading the Sizewell report, which is principally about the choice of British or American/French reactor technology rather than the building of nuclear power stations per se. The long-term promotion of British firms will not figure prominently in the report. Will it figure in the decision?

Graham Searjeant

Financial Editor

APPOINTMENTS

Balfour Beatty's board now comprises: Mr D Holland, chairman; Mr R Rankin, chief executive; Mr N Ashley, executive director; Balfour Beatty Construction International; and Mr R Biggam, corporate director.

Mr K Odell, engineering director; Mr J Stevenson, non-executive. David S Smith (Holdings); Mr Nigel Chancellor, managing director of Abbey Corrugated, a subsidiary, has been made a director of David S Smith.

Mr Brian Smith and Mr Neil Greig have become joint chairmen and joint chief executives of St Regis Packaging, a subsidiary.

Towers, Perrin, Forster & Crosby: The new directors are: Mr John Ryan and Mr Geoff Westall. The new partners are: Mr Richard Bowen, Mr John Instance, Mr George Orros and Mr David Greider-Jones.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table showing Base Lending Rates for various banks and currencies, including ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc.

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members of National Australia Bank Limited will be held at 36th Floor, 500 Bourke Street, Melbourne, on Thursday, January 22, 1987, at 11.00 a.m.

Ordinary Business

- 1. To receive and consider the balance sheet and statement of profit and loss and the reports of the Directors and of the Auditor for the year ended September 30, 1986. 2. To elect Directors. 3. To transact any other business of which due notice has been given.

Special Business

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution: "that sanction be and is hereby given to the modification by the Directors of the terms and conditions of the Staff Share Scheme established by the Company with the approval of a resolution of stockholders passed on 26 June, 1986, by the deletion of the word "full-time" where it appears in the definition of "Employee" contained in Clause (c) of the Staff Share Scheme."

By order of the Board R. J. Barnier, Secretary November 27, 1986.

Proxies

A Member or other person entitled to vote may appoint not more than two proxies to attend and vote instead of him. Where more than one proxy is appointed, each proxy must be appointed to represent a specified proportion of the Member's voting rights. A proxy need not be a Member of the Company.

National Australia Bank National Australia Bank Limited Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Australia 3007271

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Large table of Unlisted Securities with columns for Company, Price, Dividend, etc. Includes companies like BHP, Anglo, etc.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure...

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like Alcon, Croda, CASE, Crown House, Peck, Rover, etc.

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Year, Dividend, Yield, etc.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Year, Dividend, Yield, etc.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Year, Dividend, Yield, etc.

UNDATED table with columns: Year, Dividend, Yield, etc.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Year, Dividend, Yield, etc.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Year, Dividend, Yield, etc.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists companies like Alcon, Croda, CASE, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 8. Dealings ended Friday. Contango day today. Settlement day January 5.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Breweries section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Buildings and Roads section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Finance and Land section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Foods section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Chemicals, Plastics section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Cinemas and TV section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Drapery and Stores section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Hotels and Caterers section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Industrials A-D section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Industrials E-K section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Industrials L-R section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Industrials M-Z section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Electricals section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Insurance section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Leisure section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Mining section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Shipping section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Shoes and Leather section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Textiles section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Newspapers and Publishers section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Oil section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Tobacco section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Miscellaneous section.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Miscellaneous section.

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Portfolio Gold DAILY DIVIDEND 24.00 Claims required for 430 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS section listing various international trading services.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G section listing advertising and printing services.

PROPERTY section listing real estate services and listings.

MINING section listing mining services and listings.

SHIPPING section listing shipping services and listings.

SHOES AND LEATHER section listing shoe and leather goods.

TEXTILES section listing textile services and listings.

TOBACCO section listing tobacco services and listings.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off.

UGBY UNION on bridging even-year or Ireland

Precocious North have a style that could be the late Eighties model

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

North 34 London 6

The last time North won a divisional championship England had just won the grand slam and North were full of old heads and experience. Six years ago and are full of precocious talent playing in a style which reflects immense credit on David Robinson, their coach.

But they played such a fluid game that the set-pieces did not assume the importance they normally do in the English game; they completely dominated the loose ball, Winterbottom having a most venomous match, and their backs went to town.

at the lineup by using Wilkinson and Macfarlane to avoid the towering O'Leary and their halves constantly forced London into retreat. Holmes has had a splendid partnership; he has speed off the mark; he constantly exposed London's blind-side defence and he shrewdly left the tactical kicking to Andrew.

No identity crisis for the Midlands

By Gordon Allan

Midlands 18 South West 10

They talk about players in the divisional championship having difficulty identifying with anything so vague as a division. The gist of the matter is do they prefer better players in the team called Harlequins than they do when it is called Stockbroker?

on his left leg in the second half and finished the match with less than 100 per cent mobility. Egerton and Redman, the best of the South West forwards, were overshadowed by the likes of Richards, Wells and Orwin.

Andrew played an important role in North's next two tries with both hand and foot and Harrison was only a metre short of a third after Carling's forceful break.



Snash-and-grab at Sudbury: Underwood does the smashing and Offiah the grabbing as the former goes for his second try. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Wind cuts through Loveridge Cwmtillery hopes Harlequins inspires Harlequins in every phase

By Gerald Davies

Cwmtillery 34 Aberavon 3

Cwmtillery, the only junior district side left in the Swepwps Welsh Cup next directly to the Welsh Rugby Union, felt hopeful of a favourable result.

such people, absolutely right. Cwmtillery needed the confidence such anticipation would give in order to play well in the first half. The match was won in the dressing-room.

By Peter Dixon Harlequins 25 Bath 9

Comfortable though their victory was in the end, Harlequins made heavy weather of disposing of what was effectively Bath's second team at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Saturday.

By Nicholas Keith Bristol 39 Leicester 9

It was soon obvious why Leicester had this game demerited. Yet nothing must be taken away from Bristol, who badly needed to win and eclipsed Leicester in every phase.

penalty and Hare had been caught under his posts to let in Woodman on the left.

Fightback thwarts Rosslyn

By Michael Stevenson

Headingley 20 Sale 23

Liverpool/St Helens maintain their splendid first season of amalgamation (David Hands writes). They came back from a 12-3 deficit to beat Rosslyn Park at Rochampton 15-12 in one of the three John Smith's merit table B games played.

Triumph for running and handling game

By Michael Stevenson

Headingley 20 Sale 23

Headingley's Northern Merit table victory over Sale at Rochampton on Saturday by a goal, two tries and three penalties to a goal, two tries and two penalties was not just a victory for the club, it was a triumph for running-and-handling rugby football.

Scanlon's decisive try

By David Hands

Warwickshire 4 Eastern Counties 0

A try by Martin Scanlon, their scrum half, brought Warwickshire the National Westminster Bank Shield in the final of the county championship at Twickenham on Saturday.

A shining example

By Bryan Stiles

Newbridge 26 Gwenton 4

Gwenton had their moment in the sun - but it was fleeting. Their hopes flickered brightly but finally before they were sunk by the superior technique and fitness of opponents who won through comfortably into the third round of the Swepwps Welsh Cup.

WEEKEND RUGBY RESULTS

Table containing weekend rugby results for various leagues including the THORN EMU DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, JOHN SMITH'S MERIT TABLE B, SWEPWPS WELSH CUP, and HUNTING GATES HERTS MERIT TABLE. It lists teams, scores, and key players.

Warwickshire Eastern Counties

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SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

RACING

Chance for A Sure Row to confirm his potential

By Mandarin
With Wayward Lad, Badsworth Boy and The Mighty Mac all rapidly approaching 12, Monica Dickinson, their astute trainer, must be acutely aware that the quality end of her steeplechasing team now has a rather top-sided look in terms of age.

If the Harwood stable is to maintain its position as one of the leading chasing yards in the country, Mrs Dickinson will be looking to the likes of A Sure Row, who runs at Kelso today, to fill the void which will be left when the aforementioned trio end their racing days.

A useful novice hurdler in 1984, when trained by Sally Oliver, A Sure Row has run only four times since being transferred to Harwood midway through the 1984-85 season.

The Saint Denys gelding won his only hurdle race for the stable at Wetherby in February of that season but switched to fences last season, when he created a most favourable impression in winning his only races from good novice opposition at Bangor and Haydock.

A cracked shin-bone kept A Sure Row off the racetrack after January until last month when he reappeared at Haydock. Looking very much in need of the race, the seven-year-old was far from disgraced in failing to concede weight to Bucko and King Jo.

The runner-up and Johns Present, a distant fourth, have both won their only subsequent starts while Bucko was still going well in the SGB Chase nine days ago when falling at the twelfth.

A Sure Row faces experienced handicappers in the Keilder Handicap Chase this afternoon but, with that promising Haydock run under his belt, it will be disappointing if he cannot give weight and a beating to The Divider and Preben Fur.

My other principal fancies at the Scottish track are Pat's Jester (12.15) and Milestan Dancer (1.15) in the two novice hurdles. The latter ran particularly well to get within four lengths of the much-weighted Randolph Place at Carlisle on Thursday and the fact that he runs again so soon looks optimistic.

Pat's Jester, despite having won his previous race at Ayr,

started a 20-1 shot for the Triumph Hurdle Trial at Cheltenham earlier this month but belied that price by finishing second to Ghofar. He faces a less demanding task today.

At Towcester, I will be most interested to see how Corbett Coins fares on her chasing debut. By Deep Run out of a Laurence O mare, she has always looked as if she would not come into her own until tackling fences.

She is reported to have schooled particularly well and, in receipt of 12lb from Steel Yeoman, Corbett Coins has an excellent opportunity to improve Fulke Walwyn's already excellent record at the Northamptonshire track in the first division of the Mistletoe Novices' Chase.

None Too Dear, an impressive winner here last month, goes unopposed in the first division of the Christmas Pudding Novices' Hurdle as that success was gained in a conditional jockeys' race. However, I give marginal preference to another consistent sort in Vital Boy, who chased home Avopart in a fair novice hurdle at Haydock Park last time.



High fliers: Peter Scudamore and High Knowl take to the air on their way to a 15-length victory in Cheltenham's Finale Hurdle (Photograph: Ed Byrne)

TOWCESTER

Selections

By Mandarin

- 12.30 Vital Boy, 2.00 Cerimau, 1.00 Corbett Coins, 2.30 Turkana, 1.30 Ramille, 3.00 Charlies Cottage, 3.30 Harry's Bar.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.30 TOIRDEALBHACH (nap). The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 HARRY'S BAR.

Going: soft

12.30 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICES' HURDLE (Div I: £895; 2m) (17 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like BROOKHURST, CONCORDE BOY, and FLEET SPECIAL.

FORM CONCORDE BOY (11-0) 11th, never a factor, beaten over 70l to Yeoman Broiler (2m 4f, £2165, good Nov 5, 13 run). GENERAL SANDY (10-12) 3rd, beaten 20l to Spartan Orion (11-3) at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, £294, soft, Dec 4, 14 run). VOR ANTONY (11-3) 2nd, beaten 10l to Glendale Jerry (11-5) at Towcester (2m 5f, £141, good Nov 13, 12 run). JUBILEE LIGHTS (10-12) 3rd, beaten 37l to Gay Rasool (11-1) at Towcester (2m 5f, £1297, good Nov 29, 9 run). CORBETT COINS (10-9) makes her debut over fences today, best 2m 5f, £1297, good Nov 29, 9 run. SWAG JACKET (10-9) 5th, beaten 37l to Glendale Jerry (11-7) at Towcester (2m 5f, £2305, good Nov 26, 10 run).

1.0 MISTLETOE NOVICES' CHASE (Div I: £1,254; 2m 5f 110yd) (13 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like STEEL YEOMAN, ALBANI, and GENERAL SANDY.

FORM STEEL YEOMAN (10-10) 11th, never a factor, beaten over 70l to Yeoman Broiler (2m 4f, £2165, good Nov 5, 13 run). GENERAL SANDY (10-12) 3rd, beaten 20l to Spartan Orion (11-3) at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, £294, soft, Dec 4, 14 run). VOR ANTONY (11-3) 2nd, beaten 10l to Glendale Jerry (11-5) at Towcester (2m 5f, £141, good Nov 13, 12 run). JUBILEE LIGHTS (10-12) 3rd, beaten 37l to Gay Rasool (11-1) at Towcester (2m 5f, £1297, good Nov 29, 9 run). CORBETT COINS (10-9) makes her debut over fences today, best 2m 5f, £1297, good Nov 29, 9 run. SWAG JACKET (10-9) 5th, beaten 37l to Glendale Jerry (11-7) at Towcester (2m 5f, £2305, good Nov 26, 10 run).

1.30 TURKEY AND HAM SELLING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,018; 2m) (12 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like BOSTWORTH BOY, BOUTWORTH BOY, and DONNA'S BOY.

FORM BOSTWORTH BOY (10-10) 11th, never a factor, beaten over 70l to Yeoman Broiler (2m 4f, £2165, good Nov 5, 13 run). BOUTWORTH BOY (10-12) 3rd, beaten 20l to Spartan Orion (11-3) at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, £294, soft, Dec 4, 14 run). DONNA'S BOY (10-12) 3rd, beaten 20l to Spartan Orion (11-3) at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, £294, soft, Dec 4, 14 run). TRACK MARSHALL (10-12) 2nd, beaten 10l to Glendale Jerry (11-5) at Towcester (2m 5f, £141, good Nov 13, 12 run). TRACER (10-12) 3rd, beaten 37l to Gay Rasool (11-1) at Towcester (2m 5f, £1297, good Nov 29, 9 run). CORBETT COINS (10-9) makes her debut over fences today, best 2m 5f, £1297, good Nov 29, 9 run. SWAG JACKET (10-9) 5th, beaten 37l to Glendale Jerry (11-7) at Towcester (2m 5f, £2305, good Nov 26, 10 run).

Course specialists

Table with 4 columns: Trainers, Runners, Per Cent, and Jockeys. Lists names like F Whelan, S Christian, O Sherwood, and J Jenkins.

KELSO

Selections

By Mandarin

- 12.15 Pat's Jester, 1.45 A SURE ROW (nap), 1.25 Corbett Coins, 2.15 Dan O'Far, 1.15 Milestan Dancer, 2.45 Absontant.

By Michael Seely

Going: soft

12.15 CHARTERHALL JUVENILE NOVICES' HURDLE (3-Y-O: £685; 2m) (10 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like PAT'S JESTER, BRAMPTON LYNN, and COME POUR THE WINE.

12.45 ELKHAEM SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (2735; 2m 196yd) (8 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like SUPER SOLD, BARTON CROSS, and CORNER.

Course specialists

Table with 4 columns: Trainers, Runners, Per Cent, and Jockeys. Lists names like E Robson, Mrs M Dickinson, Dony Smith, Mrs M Reveley, and W A Stephenson.

Phil Tuck rode the 300th winner of his career on Atkinson's at Ayr on Saturday. He had earlier initiated a double on Taekos, trained, like Atkinson's, by Gordon Richards.

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 0-6422 TRIFORUM (COUP) (Mrs J Ryley) 8 Hal 9-10-0. B West (4) 88 7-0. Racecard notes: Draw in brackets. Six-figure and diamond winner. BP-batten favourite in latest form (F-fell, P-pulled up, U-unseated rider, B-raced, Owner in brackets, Trainer, Age and brought down, S-sipped up, R-released, Horse's name in brackets, S-Six-figure handicap, CD-course winner, D-distance winner, CD-course.

2.0 PORT AND BRANDY HANDICAP CHASE (E2,141; 3m 190yd) (12 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like CERMAU, BALLY-BOO, and FELL CLIMB.

FORM CERMAU (10-12) won 4l from Overway (10-4), who ranked the form when winning on Saturday at Haydock (2m, £2268, good to soft, Dec 10, 8 run). GEATA AN USCHIE (11-13) 2nd, beaten 20l to Van Bower (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run). FELL CLIMB (10-9) 3rd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run). CERMAU (10-12) 2nd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run). CERMAU (10-12) 2nd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run).

2.30 HOLLY AND THE IVY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (E1,418; 2m 53yd) (7 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like TOIRDEALBHACH, BRAVEN, and MIDNIGHT SONG.

FORM TOIRDEALBHACH (12-3) 5th, beaten 20l to Mendella (10-4) at Wetherby (2m, £2326, good, Nov 20, 5 run). BRAVEN (10-12) 2nd, beaten 10l to Downpatrick (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Dec 5, 8 run). MIDNIGHT SONG (10-12) 3rd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run). CERMAU (10-12) 2nd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run).

3.0 MISTLETOE NOVICES' CHASE (Div I: £1,248; 2m 5f 110yd) (13 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like CHARLES'S COTTAGE, COYOR, and BRAGA.

FORM CHARLES'S COTTAGE (12-3) 5th, beaten 20l to Mendella (10-4) at Wetherby (2m, £2326, good, Nov 20, 5 run). COYOR (10-12) 2nd, beaten 10l to Downpatrick (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Dec 5, 8 run). BRAGA (10-12) 3rd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run). CERMAU (10-12) 2nd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run).

3.30 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICES' HURDLE (Div II: £826; 2m) (18 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like BARDIAN, CHEVENS, and MARY'S BARM.

FORM BARDIAN (10-12) 3rd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run). CHEVENS (10-12) 3rd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run). MARY'S BARM (10-12) 3rd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run).

FORM HARRY'S BAR (11-7) 3rd, beaten 10l to Cermau (10-12) at Fallowfield (2m 5f, £1548, soft, Nov 24, 5 run).

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1.15 SISTERPATH NOVICES' HURDLE (E685; 2m 6f) (15 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like BOUNTY'S CROWN, BOUNTY'S CROWN, and BALMORAL.

1.45 KEILDER HANDICAP CHASE (E1,987; 2m 6f) (5 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like VILLERSTOWN, SURE ROW, and BALLY-BOO.

2.15 GLENTROSS NOVICES' CHASE (E1,174; 3m) (10 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like DAN VOR, KING'S COLLEGE BOY, and KING'S COLLEGE BOY.

2.45 CARDRONA HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,272; 2m) (13 runners)

Table with 3 columns: No., Name, and Odds. Includes entries like RAPID BEAT, ADARE, and ADARE.

Stearnsby stakes firm claim for Cheltenham honours

The Welsh Grand National may only be a handicap but in recent seasons it has become a leading trial for the Gold Cup and Jenny Pitman is enthusiastic about Saturday's impressive winner, Stearnsby, taking his chance at Cheltenham in March.

"I've always thought of him as a Gold Cup horse and he'll go for it this season," the jubilant trainer said. "I hope his owner, Terry Ramsden, won't want to run him in the Grand National just yet because I think the horse is mentally a bit too young."

Stearnsby was maintaining the remarkable sequence of seven-year-olds in the Cheltenham steeplechase. They have now won the last seven runnings of this event and on Saturday they will be the only other member of that age group in the race.

One of those seven winners was Stearnsby's stable companion, Burrough Hill Lad, who carried 10lb less - 10st 9lb as opposed to 11st 5lb - when winning in 1983 before going on to win the Gold Cup less than three months later.

The record books confirm that the Gold Cup has become very much a race for the young up-and-coming chaser. Of the last 17, six have been won by seven-year-olds and six by eight-year-olds.

Further evidence that the Welsh National serves as a sound trial for steeplechasing is that the blue riband has been provided by the last two winners, Righthand Man and Run And Skip, who went on to win excellent races in defeat at

Cheltenham behind Forgive-N-Forget and Dawn Run respectively. Graham Bradley, who partnered Stearnsby in the absence of the suspended Graham McCourt, had his mouth just open the pace before launching his challenge at the turn for home. By the last fence, he had already established a clear lead over his toiling rivals.

Explaining Stearnsby's lacklustre performance on his previous run in the Hennessy Gold Cup, Mrs Pitman said: "I was very disappointed with him at Newbury but it turned out that he had a low white blood count. I told Brad before that race that I was a bit worried because he could be just short of one gallop."

With Macoliver running on into second place and Corbiere filling fourth place behind Jimbrook, the Upper Lambourn trainer saddled three of the first four home. As Corbiere was race back in 1983, Mrs Pitman has now won three of the last five renewals.

The race has also become very much the property of women trainers as John Spearing, last year, is the only man to have trained the winner in the last six years.

Not content with eyeing the Gold Cup, Mrs Pitman has also had her sights set on another Grand National. She said: "Macoliver ran a tremendous race and he is sure to run in the National given the chance. The trouble is that he may not get in with the present conditions. Corbiere ran a blinder but nowadays hasn't quite got the legs of the younger horses."

Corbiere's owner, Brian Burrough, said: "That was a fine run and on this form he'll have to go for another National - if he gets a decent weight."

Lucky Vane, one of the leading factors on the way to the top in the straight and finished sixth, Jimmy Frost said: "He jumped well but was never going on the dead ground - he really braked a leg when Darr Hansel fell and gave up his two remaining rides."

High Knowl had his Triumph Hurdle price reduced from 10-1 to 7-1 after completing his treble in fine style in the Finale Junior Hurdle. A multiple winner on the Flat for Barry Hills, High Knowl is unbeaten over hurdles since joining Martin Pipe.

The High Line colt took command from the start and by the time they turned for home he was a good 15 lengths clear. Corbiere, who had been a realy horrible by then and he is still very much a novice. He did it well today. I'm very pleased with him he is full of guts and he can be ridden any way. He can be restrained if necessary."

Dunston, who had been favourite to give the favourite a run for his money, nearly went at the first with a bad mistake which brought down Guessing. After that Dunston never really got into the contest and finished fifth.

O'Neill to open at Edinburgh

Jonjo O'Neill, the former champion jump jockey, will officially open Edinburgh's new National Hunt track on Monday, January 5. The new racing park in the west of the city was due to launch a £2 million share issue.

The track has been laid out at a cost of £90,000 on partly reclaimed land adjacent to the links area and golf course. Its design fits all the latest safety requirements and includes portable fences, hurdles and plastic running rail.

O'Neill said: "I had about six rides there on the Flat and I think it will make a super jumping course. With luck racing will be possible there in the winter when it cannot take place elsewhere."

O'Neill, presently undergoing treatment for cancer, is now being treated and plans to have a runner at the opening meeting. The clerk of the course, David McHugh, describes the course as being right-handed, flat and galloping. It is a mile and three furlongs long with an easy turn into the straight. The first race over the new track will be the £2,000-added 100 Pipers Handicap Hurdle at 12.15. The opening ceremony will be at 11.30am.

A new business entertaining facility has been created, and the hurdles course is being sponsored by Segram, who are also sponsoring the first event.

Mercer and Smyly pull out of stud

Joe Mercer, the former royal jockey, and Mark Smyly, the Lambourn trainer, have resigned as non-executive directors of Hardwick Breeding and Racing. The trouble is that the company was due to launch a £2 million share issue.

Their decision to pull out of the stud farm, at Whitechurch, near Pangbourne, Berkshire, comes only days after Charles Atkinson, the company's joint managing director, resigned after appearing on the Jockey Club's forfeit list of non-payers.

Mercer said yesterday: "I just didn't want to be involved. People had been digging into their affairs and I didn't want to be associated with anything like that."

Smyly said his decision had been taken jointly with Mercer. He said: "My resignation was due to various reasons connected with the make-up of the new company. I am not satisfied everything is as it should be in the running of the new company."

David McConnell, an American lawyer, described in the company's promotional literature as chairman (non-executive), is trying to contact the firm to discuss the situation.

The Iliad suffers

The Iliad, ante-post joint favourite with Barnbrook Again for the inaugural running of The Ladbroke at Leopardstown next month, has suffered a set-back in its training progress.

"I'm still hopeful he will be able to take part in the big race," Homer Scott, his trainer, said at Navan on Saturday. The Iliad landed a substantial gamble in style at Fairyhouse nine days ago and was due to have another preparatory race next week.

He will not now be in action until the Ladbroke at the soonest. However, his owner, Mrs Maeve McMorrow, and Scott have a prime candidate for the Findus Handicap at Leopardstown on Saturday in Omerta.

Appearing for the first time since jarring himself when beaten by Fitzherbert at Chepstow on October 26, Omerta readily won the Handicap Chase under top weight at Navan on Saturday in the hands of Scott's good young stable jockey, John Short.

David McConnell, an American lawyer, described in the company's promotional literature as chairman (non-executive), is trying to contact the firm to discuss the situation.

Saturday's results

Table with 2 columns: Location and Race Results. Lists results for Chepstow, Nottingham, and Ayr.

Leaders over the jumps

Table with 2 columns: Trainers and Jockeys. Lists names and statistics for various trainers and jockeys.

FOOTBALL: HOLLINS CLINGS ON THOUGH SYMPATHY FOR THE EMBATTLED MANAGER CANNOT HIDE THE TRUTH OF HIS TEAM'S PERFORMANCE

Bates keeps his nerve but the signs at Chelsea are ominous

By Clive White
Chelsea..... 0
Tottenham Hotspur..... 2
As Chelsea sank deeper into their bottomless pit of despair, one was left to wonder not so much where, as how, it will all end. To put it bluntly, it is a case of which will crack first - John Hollins' nerve or that of Ken Bates, his chairman. I would be inclined to back the former.

Niedzwiecki, had unnervefully stood his ground. But Allen was merely throwing away his old pair. In a week when Pleat was seen to be sympathetic to Hoddle's desire to leave Tottenham, the manager was forced to reconsider and acknowledge that not only the beauty of Hoddle but also the bonus. "There were lots of good aspects in our play, not least the centre backs' partnership and Hoddle's ability to put the ball in the space perfectly to create four or five chances." And that did not include the subtle back heel, more accurate than many could pass forwards, that put Allen in for his first goal.

Hollins, as crazy as his life must seem right now, would perhaps question the sanity of Pleat in releasing such a player. Compared to the thoroughbred Hoddle, Hollins had one or two donkeys in his own midfield. They have not won a League game since October 18, but the most significant fact is that Dixon has not scored in the League in more than ten weeks, and on Saturday was as anonymous as an eel.

But the scoreline could not hide the truth that even in a game in which Chelsea had scored a penalty turned down, they were still fortunate to lose by only two goals. Clive Allen, naturally, scored both of them. When Pleat saw Clive Allen throwing his boots into the rubbish bin after the game he thought it was in disgust at missing an excellent chance of a treble in the last seconds, when the Chelsea goalkeeper,

seem to have been forgotten. The rub of the green, not to mention the woodwork, was against them, most memorably a shot by Spackman, deflected upwards by Danny Thomas, which struck the underside of the crossbar and undered to most eyes to have bounced down over the line, a 1-0.

But Mr Severle disallowed the goal. You felt for Chelsea and McLaughlin when six minutes later Parks, standing in for Clemence, flattened the Chelsea centre back in the penalty area with little excuse. Tottenham's strikes, though, left nothing to doubt. The match was put safely and rightly beyond Chelsea's clawing fingers by Hoddle's precision, with Williams' tricycle and Allen's finish six minutes to bring the forward's League total to 19 - as many goals as the entire Chelsea side have scored all season.

Charlton take the accolade

By Vince Wright
Charlton Athletic..... 0
Liverpool..... 0
The talk before the match was of a comfortable away victory, but those Charlton supporters who predicted such an outcome badly underestimated their team. Many among the 16,564 crowd at Selhurst Park came to watch the title contenders, Liverpool, but stayed to applaud lowly Charlton, who shared the points despite being down to 10 men for the last half-hour.

Despite these misfortunes, Charlton continued to make life difficult for the champions and credit must go to the manager, Lennie Lawrence, and his players for doing their homework. Liverpool were never allowed to settle into their usual smooth rhythm. Forced onto the defensive from the start, they were - untypically - prepared to kick anywhere for safety. But they survived because the ball refused to run for Charlton, most of the important decisions by the referee went in their favour.

shock result of the day. At the other end, Charlton's goalkeeper, Bolder, who was at Anfield for two years without playing in the first team, had the satisfaction of preventing Rush from scoring an undesired winner in the closing minutes. For Liverpool, only Lawrance was able to come up to scratch. Liverpool's attack and control were unusually poor, and apart from losing ground in the championship race they are beset by injury problems. Hansen and Venison were late withdrawals, and joined Molloy, Johnston and the player-manager, Kenny Dalglish, on being ruled out of selection. Abell, Hansen's deputy, had a tiring time on his debut.

Everton show their true grit

By Simon Jones
Perhaps the difference between Arsenal and the pack behind them at the top of the first division is a large measure of old-fashioned grit. Of the pursuers only Everton would appear able to match Arsenal in this respect. Despite an appalling injury list, Everton have moved quietly into fourth position in the table, their latest success being a comprehensive 3-0 defeat of Wimbledon on Saturday. And there was more for the Goodison crowd to cheer than from Steven, Sheedy and Heath. Twenty minutes from time, Peter Reid made his first appearance in an Everton shirt since the FA Cup final.

Transfer-listed Fenwick, Queen's Park Rangers, scored. Everton did well to twice recover from being a goal down against Aston Villa. Aldridge scored their second equalizer - his 19th goal of the season - with another penalty. Oxford seem intent, too, on wiping out Aston Villa's impressive lead as the League's worst disciplined team. Their substitute, Phillips, who came on as a 72nd minute substitute, was sent off 16 minutes later. It was the second time he had been sent off in four weeks and brings Oxford's total of dismissals this season to five.

however, the handicap seemed to be an incentive. Despite going behind when Shearer scored, Palace won through two goals from Bright, who is proving a useful acquisition. Portsmouth, too, came back to win after conceding the lead but this has become almost a habit for them at Fratton Park. The match against Barnsley had moved well into injury time when Dillon scored the penalty which put Portsmouth back at the top of the table. In fact, there was considerable doubt about the validity of the penalty which was awarded for a 'foul' by the Barnsley goalkeeper, Baker, on the Portsmouth forward, Quinn, who admitted later that he had taken 'a bit of a dive'.

Table with 10 columns: Division, Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes First division, Second division, and Southern League.

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Jumping for joy: Bradshaw (centre) celebrates his goal for Sheffield Wednesday with Sterland (right) and Snodda at Hillsborough yesterday. Wednesday beat Newcastle United 2-0 to go to fifth place in the first division. Report, page 28

Eccentric Arsenal expose paper tigers

By David Powell
Arsenal..... 3
Luton Town..... 0
The club with all the ideas, the latest being to roof their stadium, offered none on Saturday. Luton, it said in the programme, came to Highbury as contenders for their first League championship. That was on paper. On grass they looked no such thing. Luton's blustering manager, all the ball boys would have been caught down one end. In between Arsenal attacks there was little more than Luton goal kicks. So dominant was the Arsenal midfield, with Williams the service arm and Roostick the racket, that the forwards, Groves and Quinn, should have spared a fearful 70 minutes worrying whether Luton would hijack a point.

Quite whether his humour would be as forthcoming had he agreed to sign for Huddersfield Town in October, as Graham wanted him to, is open to question. "He has done exceptionally well," the manager commented after the left-sided right-footed midfielder player had conceded his position as Arsenal's leading scorer. As Graham admitted, Hayes was given his chance only because of injuries to regulars. Hayes took his League tally to 10 goals with a low 89th minute drive after Nicholas had deligh-

fully spun the ball into his path. But it was another of Arsenal's new generation. Quinn, who broke down Luton's resistance. Running in to meet Groves's cross, the off-side centre forward headed the opening goal after 71 minutes. Ten minutes later Quinn headed against the bar from Davis's corner and Adams seized on the ricochet. Graham refuses to talk about winning the League in his first season as manager but occasionally lets slip comments which suggest he is privately cultivating the idea. "I was pleased we were so patient - in 1971 we played many games like that," he said. "The spirit is running through the club again like it did when I was in the team."

ARSENAL: J. Lukic, V. Anderson, K. Sanson, S. Williams, D. O'Leary, A. Adams, D. Roostick, P. Quinn, G. Groves, G. Hayes, G. Cooper, C. Carrick, S. Baker, S. C. Nicholas, M. Hayes. Referee: R. Groves. LUTON TOWN: I. Seeley, T. Brackley, R. Johnson, P. Nicholas, S. North, M. Daniels, M. McLaughlin, S. B. Stan, A. Grimes. Referee: R. Groves.

Not champion stuff, Brian

By Nicholas Harling
Nottingham Forest..... 0
Southampton..... 0
Southampton, who are invariably not one of the most appealing teams away from home, not only put a block on Nottingham Forest's championship chances but raised a smile and a quip or two from the beleaguered Chris Nicholl. Southampton's manager needed humouring after a week in which talk of a vendetta came in the aftermath of Dennis' playing in the first division, were up against hosts who had yet to fail to score at home. Paradoxically, the two players who had done most to stretch his managerial patience he ended up praising most: Dennis for his almost total subjection of Carr and Wright for displaying the kind of form that justified his desire to move to a bigger club and behind them, of course, there was Shilton, as reluctant as ever to provide his old club with satisfaction, even if the ultimate cost, a broken nose, was painful.

An expert on that complaint if ever there was one, Nicholl, whose twisted features bear testimony to the number of times his nose has been put out of joint, agreed that Shilton might be advised to have surgery. "Unless he wants to look like that, that is," he joked. Shilton's first-minute parry from Mills had suggested that a home victory would be a formality. But by the time the goalkeeper was called into serious action again to deny Webb on the stroke of half-time, it was obvious that Southampton had got the measure of Forest.

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notwithstanding the bookings of Bond, Wallace and Case incurred in the space of three inflamed minutes. "They were crowd-induced," Nicholl said. The crowd had also been induced to express their concern at wasted efforts by Birles and Nigel Clough from promising positions, after which, in the second half, Southampton did far more than merely soak up Forest pressure. Clarke's shot which thudded against an upright from Case's exquisite pass was the nearest they came to exposing, totally the limitation of Forest's options when the men who matter are not producing the goods. Not the stuff of champions, I'm afraid, Brian.

Slaven's goal puts Middlesbrough back on top

A 17th minute goal from Bernard Slaven, his 11th of the season, yesterday restored Middlesbrough to the top of the first division. The former Brentford player, who also opened his new Brook Road stand, restricted completely to family groups, had only themselves to blame for almost constant pressure to win 2-0 at Brunton.

record in the League was broken in emphatic fashion by Wigan, who were set on the way to their 5-1 win by two goals from Lowe in the first half and one by a header from Clendon in the second. Brentford, who also opened their new Brook Road stand, restricted completely to family groups, had only themselves to blame for almost constant pressure to win 2-0 at Brunton.

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second in the 59th minute after a shot from Miller had been blocked. Doncaster looked in control, but White glanced in a header after 66 minutes and Henry equalized seven minutes later. Northampton stretched their lead at the top of the fourth division to 14 points with a 3-1 victory over Lincoln.

Table with 10 columns: Division, Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes Scottish premier division, Scottish first division, Scottish second division, and various regional leagues.

Foreboding at United for trip to Anfield

By Steve Bates
Manchester United..... 2
Leicester City..... 0
Manchester United finally reassured Alex Ferguson that they have the necessary ingredients of discipline and concentration to protect a two-goal lead. But with a Boxing Day trip to Anfield looming ominously, even their most ardent supporters cheer uneasily. And the manager has galvanized his men sufficiently to trouble a team of Liverpool's stature. On a day when Leicester revealed just why they are persisting near the relegation zone, United had the perfect opportunity to tuck into a Christmas programme with a resounding victory. Instead their appetite for a feast of goals never surfaced and they were content to pick at a Leicester side seemingly resigned to a festive season loaded with misery.

With away games at Everton and West Ham, and home fixtures with Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday, United's dependence seems understandable for Ferguson's most offered precious little other than tight, man-to-man marking and reckless tackling. It was from one such clumsy challenge by Ramsay, which precipitated the game, that chance to mark his first League appearance since August with a free kick bent round the City wall and beyond Andrews to give United a 20th-minute lead via a promising start. "Gibson had a quickness and spring about him," Ferguson said, but evidently it was not catching. Robson and Davenport were noticeably subdued, although a misplaced cannon did shoulder responsibility of nursing O'Brien on his midfield debut for United. The Eire international, aged 22, revealed nice touches and a stunning strike in the game drilled on, so he drifted into obscurity. Davenport tried to revive the match with a 30th minute snap shot after intelligent work by O'Brien and Smith. Instead, Andrews pulled off a splendid rebound. United then attempted to give the game away after half-time. First, Hogg escaped with a dubious challenge on Smith on the edge of the box before Moran, six yards out and unmarked, failed to connect with Smith's cross. Sensing danger Ferguson replaced the tiring O'Brien with Stapleton and within a minute United's fears dissolved. After a foul on the lively Olsen, Gibson's free-kick was met by a powerful header from Smith, which Andrews could only push onto a post before the forward punched to fire into the roof of the net. After losing away successive 3-1 leads against Tottenham Hotspur and Aston Villa, this time United held their own against Leicester. Instead, they got only his second win in charge was tempered by the recent loss points. He said: "It's most frustrating because we could now have been on a run of three, but we've got to get back to start building on one." With the journey to Anfield now looming, that seems a tall order.

MANCHESTER UNITED: G. Walsh, J. Forsyth, M. G. Hogg, C. Adams, S. Strachan, B. Robson, L. O'Brien, S. F. Stapleton, P. Davenport, N. Whitbread, D. Leighton. LEICESTER: J. Andrews, P. Ramsay (sub: R. Kelly), J. O'Neil, R. O'Shea, A. Foley, S. Hogg, S. C. Nicholas, A. Mangan, J. Wilson, A. Smith, S. Moran. Referee: N. Ashley (Northampton).

Lincoln rebuild

Lincoln City have begun work on a new £60,000 structure to replace their St Andrew's stand, which was condemned as a hazard. Lincoln were Bradford City's guests at the time of the fire tragedy in which 55 people lost their lives. The Lincoln secretary, Geoffrey Davy, said Lincoln were determined to recall all the fans and be extra precautions. Although work has started, the plans have been submitted to the local safety committee and are still under discussion by the club, fire brigade and the city building department. The club hope to have spectator facilities completed by August.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Not quite the end of the people's war

Ordinarily, seven hour-long documentaries would be more than enough to do full justice to the theme of the Second World War's impact on Mr. Mrs. and Miss John Citizen. But the truth of the matter is that at the end of tonight's concluding film in A People's War (Channel 4, 10.15), which has analysed the many facets of the homefront's experience with a remarkably fine eye for detail, there is such a rush to do the 's' and cross the 't's, that we are left with the feeling that once the killing stopped, there was no cash left in the production company's kitty to embark on the job of counting the cost of the cataclysm in terms of dashed expectations. There are, it is true, the beginnings of such an assessment at the end of tonight's

CHOICE

instalment. The commentary speaks of three of the five giants conjured up by Beveridge in his report on social insurance - squalor, want and idleness - still not having been vanquished. But little attempt is made to follow up the thought offered by Picture Post's Tom Hopkinson that the general desire in the country was for the people's war to be followed by a people's society. Perhaps I am expecting more of the closing chapters of A People's War than the films saw it as their duty to deliver. If I am guilty of this, it is probably because, during the past seven weeks, the series as a whole set a high standard below which it never dropped. My one reserva-

tion about it still stands, however. As it offered so many first-rate, first-hand accounts of wartime experiences, it was a mistake to alternate them with Mass Observation reports spoken by actors. The Oldest Goose in the Bush (BBC2, 9.30pm), an everyday tale of pantomime folk, is a bit-and-miss affair. Barry Davis has set his play in an Oldham which is shown to be sadly deficient in Christmas cheer. The town band is playing God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen sure enough, but the drummer welcomes a new arrival with sour comments about the town being full of glum soldiers and West Indian hair-dos. Where the play hits is in its understanding of the disenfranchised way that some theatre folk, professionally a mil-

lion miles away from London, behave when there is nowhere for them to go but down. Where it misses is in its attempt to develop the main point that I assume it is trying to make. Olivier has said that when he builds up a characterization, he begins with the fact. The retired panto goose in Barry Davis's play (the is very well played by Jimmy Jewel), also stars at the feet, and he strikes a responsive chord in the earnest young ASM who thinks that, when trying to get at the theatrical truth of things, it is the essential goodness that counts. It is, rejoins the venerable performer, no good being a goose unless you are your own goose. Sadly, this meeting of minds is untidily explored.



Tracey Ullman as Ethel in Daisy Ashford's The Young Visitors (C4, 8.30pm)

Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 Coefax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
6.30 News headlines followed by The Flintstones. (r) 8.55 Weather.
7.00 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Sally Magnusson. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel bulletins at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
8.40 Washday. Consumer affairs presented by Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather 9.05 Yogi Berra. Cartoon (r) 9.10 Play Chess. William Hartston presents the first of a new daily series 9.20 Weekly Races. (r) 9.30 Alice in Wonderland. Cartoon version, including the voice of Nigel Hawthorne as Lewis Carroll. (r)
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Neighbours. (r) 10.25 Andy Crane with programme details, and birthday greetings. 10.30 Play School. 10.50 Wilko the Wisp. (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Joanna Lumley with a thought for the day. 11.00 News and weather 11.05 The Dukes of Hazzard. Boss Hogg tries to defraud his late uncle's estate and encounters the ghost of Silas.
11.55 Junior Kick Start. The first of three heats for the Norwich Union trophy. 12.00 A Song For Christmas. The first of three programmes to find this year's Song For Christmas. The guest is Alted Jones. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News presented by Marilyn Lewis. Weather. 1.25 Neighbours. Max and Shane have an argument 1.50 Bertha. (r)
2.05 Film: One Million Years BC (1966) starring Raquel Welch and John Richardson. Adventure yarn in which the staple Miss Welch competes

BBC2

- 6.00 Coefax.
10.20 The Week to the Lords. A repeat of yesterday's programme of highlights of the week's proceedings in the House of Lords, presented by Christopher Jones.
11.00 Songs of Praise. Carols by Candlelight from Ripon Cathedral. (r) Coefax
12.00 Film: The Mark of Zorro (1920) starring Douglas Fairbanks Senior swashbuckling silent set in Mexico with Fairbanks as an ineffectual aristocrat by day and Zorro, the defender of the poor, by night. Directed by Fred Niblo.
1.25 See Hear Christmas Special. A repeat of yesterday's programme. (r)
2.15 Film: Peter No-Tail (1981) An animated tale from Sweden about a kitten, shunned by his family, who is taken to a new home by a passing motorist. News, regional news and weather.
3.40 News, regional news and weather.
3.50 Film: They Flew Alone! (1941) starring Anna Neagle and Robert Newton. The story of Amy Johnson and her husband Jim Mollison, aviators who thrilled the world in the Thirties before their marriage turned sour.
5.30 Monday Detectives. Two teams from the original 18 battle out the final of the quiz on Britain and the British. (r)
6.00 No Limits. The last programme of the rock series.
7.00 Film: 1941 (1979) starring Dan Aykroyd. A Steven Spielberg comedy about the panic when a Japanese submarine is seen off the coast of Cape Cod six days after the Attack on Pearl Harbor. In Los Angeles, the area's commanding officer is being harassed by nervous civilians, and is concerned by the eccentric behaviour of his troops.
9.00 Cool It. Comedian Phil Cool with the last programme of his series.
9.30 The Oldest Goose in the Bush. A play by Barry Davis, who originally wrote the work as a short story for radio, about a crisis facing an Oldham Mother Goose rehearsal have begun but there is no Mother Goose, and in the first instance, the assistant stage manager is sent to find a costume. By luck, it is a retired comedian with a suitable set of feathers. Starring Jimmy Jewel and John Sitt.
10.30 The American Film Institute Salute to Billy Wilder. With contributions from, among others, Fred MacMurray, Audrey Hepburn, and Walter Matthau. The programme heralds a season of Wilder films beginning with The Seven Year Itch, to be seen on Christmas Eve.
11.40 Weather.

BBC 2

- 6.15 TV-am: Good Morning Britain presented by Ann Diamond and Mike Morley.
7.00 Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; financial news at 6.35; sport at 6.40 and 7.45; exercises at 7.25; pop music at 7.55; and Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35. Wacaday with Timmy Mallett at 9.00.
9.25 Thames news headlines followed by The Leopards of Korea. Two leopard cubs, born in captivity, are taken to a rehabilitation project at the Kora Game Reserve, Kenya.
10.20 Film: The Toughest Man in the World (1984) starring Mr T. A made-for-television yarn about a tough ex-marine who enters a strong man competition in order to raise money for a youth centre for troubled youngsters. Directed by Dick Lowry. 11.55 Sport Night with Josie Carreras. Songs for the festive season recorded in the chapel of Oberdorf, a village in Austria.
12.30 Baby and Co. Lesley Judd and Amy Johnson Stopped discuss working mothers. (r)
1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkin 1.20 Thames news.
1.30 Film: The Pink Panther Strikes Again (1976) starring Peter Sellers, Herbert Lom, and Leonard Rossiter. Dreyfus escapes from the asylum where the antics of Clouseau had sent him, and begins to build a world-wide criminal network dedicated to the extermination of the bumbling detective. Directed by Blake Edwards. (Cracoe) 3.25 Film: Peter and the Wolf (1946) An animated Walt Disney adventure.
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SPORT

Cherry's protest ends in a booking
Hodge on way to Tottenham as Roberts leaves

Trevor Cherry, the Bradford City manager, is to demand an FA inquiry after he was booked and one of his players was sent off in yesterday's 2-1 defeat away to the second division leaders, Oldham...

Steve Hodge, Aston Villa's England midfielder, will sign for Tottenham Hotspur today in a £650,000 deal 24 hours after the sale of the London club's Graham Roberts to Rangers for a fee of £450,000.

Graham Roberts, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, became yesterday the latest of Rangers' expensive imports from England, his transfer to Ibrox costing £450,000.

Neil Foster, the Essex seam bowler, has been included in the England side which meets the Prime Minister's XI in a limited-overs match at Canberra tomorrow.



Fly slip: Ian Botham trout-fishing

Weston sways England to hold final trial

England will hold an official trial as part of their squad weekend on January 3. This decision was taken when the selectors met at Leicester on Saturday evening and the trial teams will be announced today, together with a handful of replacements which together will constitute the revised national squad.

Leeds hit for seven

Nicky Morgan scored three goals for Stoke City as they overran a Leeds United team weakened by suspensions, ending the match 7-2 winners.

The bigger the club the more it suits Rangers' new boy

Graham Roberts, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, became yesterday the latest of Rangers' expensive imports from England, his transfer to Ibrox costing £450,000.

Neil Foster, the Essex seam bowler, has been included in the England side which meets the Prime Minister's XI in a limited-overs match at Canberra tomorrow.

John Woodcock, the Australian captain, leads the Prime Minister's XI, and taking charge of a crop of fringe Test players.

Derby victory moves them up

Derby County moved up to third place in the second division thanks to a fine first half performance in which striker Bobby Davison scored two goals in the 4-0 win over Grimsby.

Sheffield Wednesday moved to fifth place in the first division after another exhibition of perpetual motion at Hillsborough. It gave them a double over Newcastle who must have had their perceptions of the season of good will severely shaken.

Newcastle's fallibility to the high cross was further underlined when Chapman was pushed by Jackson as he moved in again, presumably the only available tactic, and the disturbingly naive referee, Mr Guy, refused the penalty claim. He also booked Shelton for a foul on the largely anonymous Thomas and Beardsley and Jackson for over-enthusiastic tackles; others were more fortunate.

Britain's six national sports centres should concentrate on either excellence or mass participation but not both, according to a report published yesterday. The report, commissioned by the Sports Council earlier in the year, examined management and marketing requirements of the centres.

You'll get caught up in Politics on the way to the Theatre.

You'll also find dozens of other categories in the TLS Listings. It's a new, unique, accurate and up-to-date weekly listing of new and forthcoming books. It is organised by subject and genre, ranging from Art through to Zoology, and will include over 10,000 new titles every year.

Newcastle shaken by savage attacks

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Foster can impress in the Test stakes

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John Woodcock, the Australian captain, leads the Prime Minister's XI, and taking charge of a crop of fringe Test players.

MOTOR RACING

Sponsors at Lotus end an era

As predicted in The Times on Friday, the Lotus Formula One racing cars will no longer carry the black and gold John Player Special colours.

BADMINTON

Acrobatic smashes stun Frost

Morten Frost's attempt to repeat one of the finest wins of his great career ended with a 18-13, 15-8 defeat by the Chinese No. 1, Yang Yang, in the deciding men's singles of the Marlboro World Grand Prix finals in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

'Put customers first'

Britain's six national sports centres should concentrate on either excellence or mass participation but not both, according to a report published yesterday.

John Wheatley, the Sports Council's director-general, commented: "This report is the final stage of our three-year review of the centres. It contains some very interesting and exciting ideas and will provide an invaluable aid to us in coming to decisions on how we should develop our centres."

Endurance changes

Paris (AP) - The international auto sports federation (FISA) has agreed to proposals by sports prototype (endurance) racing manufacturers and teams for gradual rule modifications planned over the next five years.

Final stage

Bolton Wanderers' Burnden Park football ground will stage the final of Rugby League's John Player Special Trophy on Saturday, January 10.

McLeod again

Steve Cram, the world mile record holder, failed to break Mike McLeod's reign in the Saltwell 10km road race yesterday. McLeod gained his thirteenth successive victory with 16 seconds to spare in 29 min 20 sec.

Tennis catch

Colin Dowdeswell, the former British Davis Cup player, is to play for Tennis World, Middleborough, in the new Mortgage Corporation National League. Dowdeswell has agreed to commute from his home in France to play for the North East team.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Men's singles: M Frost (Den) bt A B... Women's singles: L Lingwei (China) bt S... Mixed doubles: H Suenito and E... Women's doubles: H Young and C... Mixed doubles: N Tier and G Gowers... Women's singles: Y Yang (China) bt M Frost... Women's doubles: H Young and C... Mixed doubles: N Tier and G Gowers...

